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• **CENTRAL · COUNCIL ·**
FOR
INFANT · & · CHILD
WELFARE



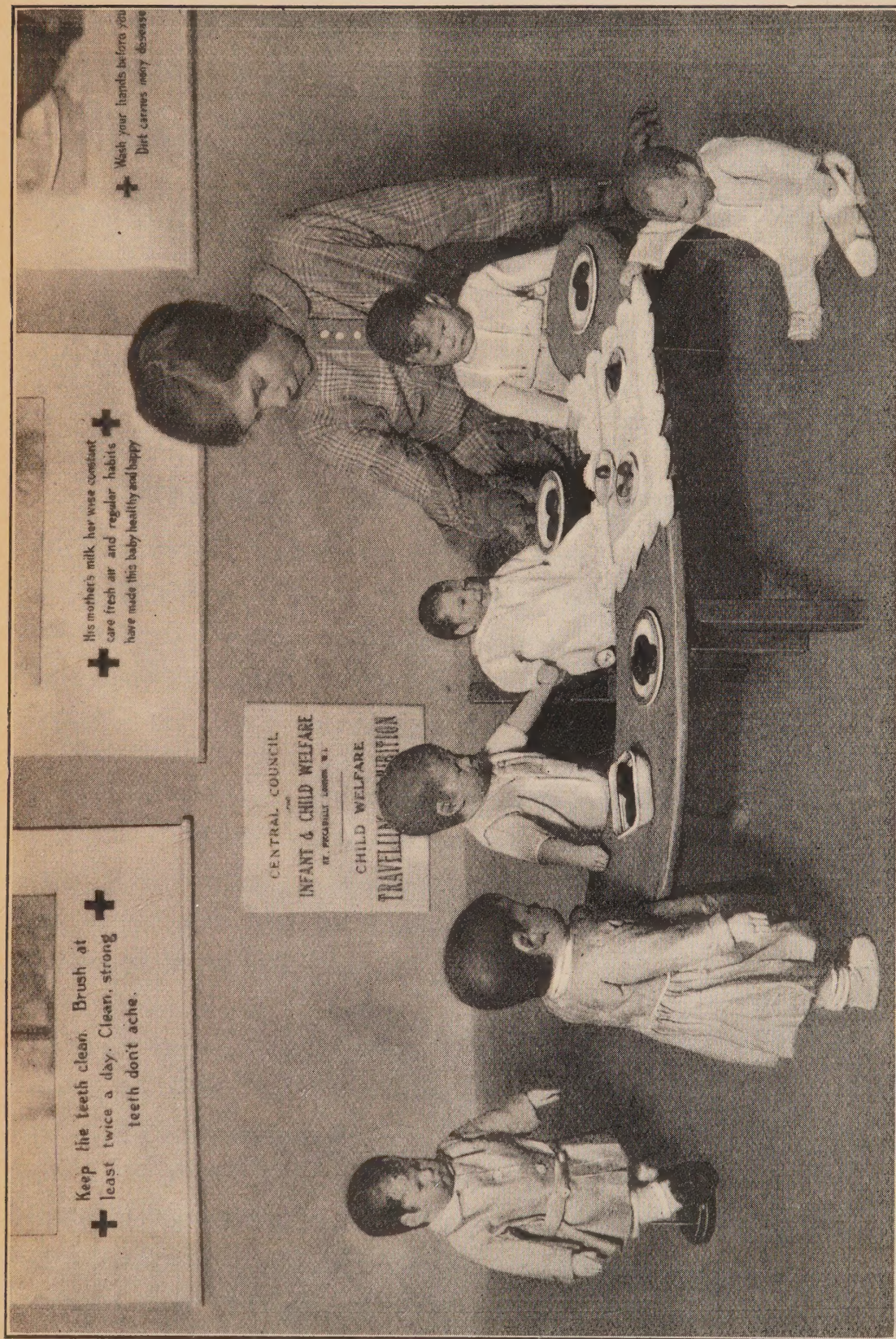
ANNUAL · REPORT
Carnegie · House · 117 · Piccadilly · W1

1st April, 1926, to 31st March, 1927.

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Central Council for Infant and Child Welfare.

(Incorporated 1919.)



Under the auspices of the
Joint Council of the British
Red Cross Society and Order
of St. John.

CONSTITUENT BODIES AND FEDERATIONS.

- Cornwall Federation for Maternity and Child Welfare.
- Durham Federation for Maternity and Child Welfare.
- Hertfordshire Federation for Maternity and Child Welfare.
- North-Western Federation for Maternity and Child Welfare.
- Northumberland and Newcastle-upon-Tyne Federation for Maternity and Child Welfare.
- Yorkshire Federation for Maternity and Child Welfare.
- Association of Infant Welfare and Maternity Centres.
- Central Committee for the Care of Cripples.
- Child Welfare Travelling Exhibition.
- Incorporated Midwives Institute.
- Invalid Children's Aid Association.
- Mothercraft Training Society (Babies of the Empire).
- National Association for the Prevention of Infant Mortality.
- National Baby Week Council.
- National Council for the Unmarried Mother and her Child.
- National Health Society.
- National Institute for the Blind (Blind Babies' Department).
- National League for Health, Maternity and Child Welfare.
- National Society of Day Nurseries.
- State Children's Association.

CENTRAL COUNCIL FOR INFANT AND CHILD WELFARE.

CARNEGIE HOUSE, 117, PICCADILLY, LONDON,
W.1.

Office Hours : 9.30 - 6 p.m.

Telephone : Grosvenor 1420.

Vice-President :

H.R.H. PRINCESS BEATRICE.

Chairman of the Council :

*THE HON. SIR ARTHUR STANLEY, C.B.E., C.B., M.V.O.

Chairman of the Executive Committee :

*THE RIGHT HON. LORD ISLINGTON, G.C.M.G., D.S.O.

Hon. Treasurer :

*THE LADY SYDENHAM.

Hon Director and Hon. Secretary :

*Dr. F. BARRIE LAMBERT, C.B.E., L.C.C., D.P.H.

Auditors :

Messrs. Blackburns, Barton,
Mayhew & Co.

Hon. Solicitors :

Messrs. Hargrove & Co.,
8, Iddesleigh House,
Caxton Street, S.W.

Bankers :

The Westminster Bank Ltd., 36, St. James's Street, S.W.1.

COUNCIL MEMBERS.

1st July, 1926—30th June, 1927.

Representing the Joint Council, Order of St. John and B.R.C.S—

Mrs. Blount.

Lady Jekyll, D.B.E.

*The Hon. Mrs. St. Aubyn.

*Dame Sarah Swift, G.B.E., R.R.C.

Dr. F. N. Kay Menzies.

Representing the Association of Infant Welfare and Maternity Centres—

*Dr. Stella Churchill.

Mrs. Duncan Harris.

Representing the Incorporated Midwives' Institute—

Miss M. Wakeman.

*Miss M. E. Pearson.

Representing the Invalid Children's Aid Association—

*Mrs. Munro.

Sir Charters Symonds, C.B.,
M.D., F.R.C.S.

Representing the Central Committee for the Care of Cripples—
 The Hon. Lady Lawrence. *Mrs. Townsend

Representing the Mothercraft Training Society—
 Lady Myers. *Mrs. Leslie Harris.

Representing the National Association for the Prevention of Infant Mortality—
 E. R. Fothergill, Esq., M.B., B.S. *H. Scurfield, Esq., M.D.

Representing the National Baby Week Council—
 Miss E. Walker Finlay. *Major C. P. Lovelock.

Representing the National Council for the Unmarried Mother and her Child—
 *Mrs. Arthur Whitting. Miss Musson.

Representing the National Health Society—
 Mrs. Stephen Winkworth. *Dr. Mary Pilliet.

Representing the National Institute for the Blind (Blind Babies' Dept.)—
 *Mrs. Tydeman.

Representing the National League for Health, Maternity and Child Welfare—
 *Miss J. Halford. Miss Norah March, B.Sc.

Representing the National Society of Day Nurseries—
 The Lady Islington. *Mrs. Ralli.

Representing the State Children's Association—
 J. A. Lovat Fraser, Esq. *Lady Sydenham.

Representing the Cornwall Federation—
 *Mrs. Petherick.

Representing the Durham Federation—
 *Miss E. M. H. Storey, O.B.E.

Representing the Hertfordshire Federation—
 *Mrs. Jebb.

Representing the North-Western Federation—
 *Miss Margaret Beavan, J.P., C.C.

Representing the Northumberland and Newcastle-upon-Tyne Federation—
 *H. Farquhar Murray, Esq.,
 F.R.C.S.

Representing the Yorkshire Federation—
 Mrs. Kitson Clark. *Miss Richards.

CO-OPTED MEMBERS.

- *Miss Cummins.
- J. S. Fairbairn, Esq., F.R.C.S., F.R.C.P.
- *Miss Margaret Walker.
- * Also members of Executive Committee.

SUMMARY OF OBJECTS.

(a) To co-ordinate and assist the work of the various national and local voluntary organisations concerned in the care of motherhood, infancy and childhood.

(b) To assist in the establishment and maintenance of such residential institutions as the Constituent Bodies may from time to time find necessary.

(c) To promote a standardisation of training for social welfare workers in connection with motherhood, infancy and childhood.

7th Annual Report

OF THE

Central Council for Infant and Child Welfare.

1st April, 1926, to 31st March, 1927.

A PART from the ordinary work of the Central Council which has been carried on as usual during the past year, the Executive Committee, under the Chairmanship of Lord Islington, has been occupied in the consideration of the relationship between the Central Council and its constituent Societies with a view to formulating a scheme of co-ordination which would enable the Central Council to develop more closely on the lines desired by the Carnegie Trustees. With this object, a Special Committee was formed, three meetings were held and some headway made, when it was found necessary to suspend the work of the Committee owing to the financial situation due to a letter received from the Joint Council, Order of St. John of Jerusalem and the British Red Cross Society, in which the Central Council was informed that the finances of the Joint Council would no longer permit of £2,000 being granted annually, that the grants would have to be on a decreasing scale and would cease altogether in 1930.

The Central Council has been represented at or has taken part in the following Conferences:—

National Association for the Prevention of Tuberculosis, at which Sir Arthur Stanley represented the Central Council.

The Fourth English-Speaking Conference held at Caxton Hall in July, organised by the National Association for the Prevention of Infant Mortality in co-operation with various other constituent bodies of the Central Council. There was a very large attendance and the programme covered a wide range of subjects dealing with maternity and child welfare. The Central Council sent its Travelling Exhibition, which was shown in one of the small rooms and was visited by a great number of delegates.

On 16th November the National Clean Milk Society held a one-day Conference at which the Central Council was represented by Mrs. Jebb, who reported a large attendance of representatives of Local Authorities and others. The need for creating a strong public opinion by the education of *all* classes was emphasised and Mrs. Jebb has put forward the suggestion that Welfare Centres make it part of their programme, and that "Milk Study" should be included in Mothercraft lectures.

During the same week a two-day Conference was organised by the Invalid Children's Aid Association and the Central Committee for the Care of Cripples. Dr. Barrie Lambert represented the Central Council for Infant and Child Welfare. The Conference was held in the Great Hall of the British Medical Association and the first session, presided over by the Right Hon. Lord Islington and addressed by the President of the Board of Education, Lord Eustace Percy, was devoted to "A Survey of the Work for Invalid and Cripple Children," while on the second day, "Unity of Effort" was the subject. A full report has been published in the January number of the "Cripples' Journal," the official organ of the Central Committee for the Care of Cripples, and can be obtained from their offices at 117, Piccadilly, W.1.

The Central Council received an invitation from the Labour Party to send a delegate to a Conference to discuss a draft Report on The Nursing Profession. The invitation was accepted and Dr. Barrie Lambert attended on behalf of the Central Council.

The Conference which the Central Council for Infant and Child Welfare was asked by the Yorkshire Federation for Maternity and Child Welfare to organise has been postponed until 1928 at the request of the Federation.

Exhibitions. A detailed account of the Permanent and Travelling Exhibitions is given further on in this Report, from which it will be seen that the work of the Central Council is becoming more widely known year by year as the number of places visited by the Travelling Exhibitions increases. The principal work of the Exhibitions is educational, the spreading of knowledge about the health of the Mother, the Infant and the School Child. Much is being done at the present time in this direction and the Council is anxious that its contribution should be practical and of real worth, and that its Exhibitions should illustrate the principles of health as well as give help and encouragement to those workers and teachers who are in close touch with mothers and children.

The educational value of carefully planned and demonstrated exhibitions is great, and the following quotations from letters

received by the Honorary Director show how large a measure of success has been achieved by the Organisers:—

Leicester. “The results of the Exhibition were regarded by my Committee as more than satisfactory. I understand that approximately 130,000 visited the Exhibition, and if the industrial crisis had not upset things, there would probably have been nearly double that number.

“My Committee regarded the Central Council’s Child Welfare Exhibit as the feature of the Exhibition, and judging by the crowds attracted and the numerous inquiries made at the Stand, the expense of the Exhibit to my Committee was amply repaid. Miss Keating and Miss Dodd were inundated with inquiries and did not have any leisure moments during the whole period of the Exhibition. You are to be congratulated in having two such capable and efficient demonstrators.

“In addition to the ordinary visitors, over 1,000 mothers and babies from our Infant Welfare Centres were specially taken to see your Exhibit, and I was assured by the Presidents of these Centres that the mothers were both interested and delighted with everything they saw. Mothers from Welfare Centres from districts in the county were also taken to see the Exhibit, and I have received letters of appreciation from those in charge of the parties.”

Altrincham. “. . . . I am directed by the Council to inform you that the same was a very great success, and they would like to pay a tribute to the great organising ability and skill which was displayed by Miss Dodd, the demonstrator, in arranging the Exhibition and for the manner in which she carried out her duties as demonstrator.

“The Council are very pleased to be able to pay this tribute to Miss Dodd, as there is no doubt that the success of the Exhibition was largely due to her efforts.”

Malvern. “. . . . The mothers and all who came were very interested in what they saw, and Miss Keating’s talks were very helpful in explaining the Exhibition and bringing home the important points to the mothers and also to the school children who saw it in the morning.”

Wallington. “. . . . Miss Dodd was a delightful lecturer and demonstrator and handled the situation with great skill and tact, and was much liked and appreciated by everybody with whom she came in contact. . . .

“In so many places now, Baby and Health Weeks are accepted as a regular routine, while this Exhibition breaks fresh

ground and should be brought to the notice of as many residents as possible, as affecting adult as well as child life."

Cambridge. "You will be interested to know that the Exhibition has been a great success, and in the opinion of my Committee the result has very largely been due to the splendid exhibit of your Council. The services of Miss Keating proved quite invaluable, and without her I am sure we should have lost a great deal of the benefit from the exhibit."

St. Austell. "The Exhibition undoubtedly owes very much to Miss Keating, who has such a wonderful grasp of all her subjects, and the added charm of being able to attract and hold the attention of her audience, both young and old. . . . The St. Austell doctors were much interested in the Exhibition and most sympathetic towards it."

As will be seen from the Organiser's Report, daily routine lectures and demonstrations to mothers and to school children, which are greatly appreciated, form an important part of the campaign organised by Miss Keating and Miss Dodd when out with the Exhibitions.

The Council would like to call attention to the value of organised tours through a county or a rural area. Where these have been arranged they have been most successful, and as the expenses are considerably less in proportion for a tour than for a single visit from London, smaller places and organisations are enabled to benefit. The two Exhibitions are practically identical, and it is only the bookings which determine which Exhibition shall visit any particular place. The same daily routine of demonstrations and lectures is carried out and only varies to accord with local requirements.

The Council welcomes the co-operation of the constituent Societies in connection with the Exhibition, and would like to thank those who, by means of exhibits and by informing their branches of coming visits and in other ways have contributed to the success of the Exhibition.

The following note from Commander Bonning shows that co-operation with the Junior Red Cross has produced most satisfactory results. The Travelling Exhibition, on its side, is greatly indebted to the Junior Red Cross for most friendly co-operation and help in many ways.

"During the past year the Travelling Exhibition has offered very useful opportunities of bringing the Junior Red Cross to the notice of teachers, as large numbers of schools visit the Exhibition for purposes of instruction. The posters and

Health Laws pictures attract attention and Miss Keating gives us valuable assistance by forwarding to us the names of teachers who wish for further information. The Health Rhymes and Health Plays, as well as the Junior Manuals, are also brought before a large public through the Exhibition and are assured of an effective display, with good results."

Journal. "Maternity and Child Welfare," the official organ of the Central Council, has continued to publish regular reports of the activities of all the Societies represented on the Council, and during the year gave illustrated accounts of the Permanent Exhibition at Carnegie House, and of the Carnegie Model Child Welfare Centres at Liverpool, Birmingham, Shoreditch and Motherwell. A series of original photographs in Dr. Stanley Banks's article told the story of what artificial sunlight is doing in the treatment of rickets at the Motherwell Centre.

The Journal reported more fully than elsewhere the Conference on Crippled Children arranged by the Invalid Children's Aid Association and the Central Committee for the Care of Cripples.

Much space is given, month by month, to the work of the Public Health service in relation to motherhood and infant life, and one Public Health Authority has shown its appreciation by ordering thirty copies of the Journal a month for its Health Visitors.

Its regular readers learn, as they could in no other way, what the Council stands for, and what are the aims and achievements of the Child Welfare Movement to-day. For this reason the Council would like to see the Journal circulate more widely than it does at present.

The annual subscription is 10s. 6d. post free. Infant Welfare Centres, however, may obtain it at the special rate of 7s. 6d. per annum. Application forms may be obtained direct from the publishers, Messrs. John Bale, Sons & Danielsson, Ltd., 83-91, Great Titchfield Street, W.1, or from the Central Council for Infant and Child Welfare, 117, Piccadilly, W.1.

Library. The number of members referred to the Library of the College of Nursing through the Central Council is increasing, but not as quickly as the Council would like. There are now over 70 members who have been so referred, 11 of whom are group borrowers—a group consisting of at least ten people. This means that about 180 readers are making use of the Library. The number of issues and renewals has been close on 1,000.

The arrangement made with the College of Nursing is the outcome of the express wish of the Carnegie Trustees that there should be a Library available for the use of all Infant and Child Welfare workers, and it has received their approval. All those actively interested in the work covered by the Council and its constituent Societies can obtain from the Library of Nursing the most up-to-date books on the subject of Maternity and Child Welfare.

Many new books have been added. Very delightful accommodation for the library has been provided since the new Headquarters of the College of Nursing have been open in Henrietta Street, Cavendish Square, W.1.

The books are lent free of charge, the cost of postage being the only expense. Individual borrowers may have three books at a time and keep them for one month. Group borrowers may borrow ten books at a time and keep them for two months.

Those who wish to become members should apply to the Hon. Director, Carnegie House, 117, Piccadilly, from whom all particulars as to rules and the recommendations from the Central Council may be obtained.

The Library is open	9.45 a.m.— 4.45 p.m.
Saturdays	9.45 a.m.—12.45 p.m.
First Saturday of the Month	9.45 a.m.— 4.45 p.m.

(especially to suit the needs of Public Health Workers).

Catalogues may be obtained, price 6d.

**Lecture Hall
and Committee
Rooms.**

The Lecture Hall, Board Room and Committee Rooms were used by the constituent Societies and others during the past year for lectures and examinations, meetings and a Jumble Sale.

The National Society of Day Nurseries, jointly with the National Association for the Prevention of Infant Mortality, held their usual Course of Lectures for Crèche workers and probationers in the Hall. A second series of lectures on the subject of "Everyday Psychology in the Nursery," which was arranged by Lady Erleigh, attracted a large audience. A course of lectures was given by Dr. Margaret Emslie, on behalf of the National Society of Day Nurseries.

The Central Committee for the Care of Cripples, in co-operation with the Board of Education, arranged in the Autumn a refresher course for teachers in Hospitals and Schools for physically defective children. One of the classes was given in the morning in the Lecture Hall, with an exhibition of needlework. This was followed by a lantern lecture in the afternoon.

The Lecture Hall was the meeting place for a Conference of Medical Officers of Health for Wales, and others, called together by Sir John Lynn-Thomas to discuss a proposed National Scheme for the Care and Cure of Cripples throughout the Principality.

The National Association for the Prevention of Infant Mortality arranged a course of six lectures for married people on "Hygiene of Married Life and Parenthood."

The "Workers' Section" of the Association of Infant Welfare and Maternity Centres continued to make Carnegie House the regular meeting place for its members and held its meetings in the Hall.

The British Commonwealth League held a one-day Conference in October, while the Parents' Union, the British Empire Cancer Campaign, the Association of Nursery Training Colleges, the Westminster Housing Association, the Middlesex Branch of the British Red Cross Society have all held meetings. In addition, there have been meetings of the constituent Societies. The Council is glad to welcome the Mothercraft Training Society, which now holds every alternate meeting of its Committee at Carnegie House.

The Central Council would like to make it known that the Lecture Hall, which has seating accommodation for approximately 200 people, is available, subject to approval, for the use of Societies and Organisations which are not constituent Societies of the Central Council. Particulars regarding fees, &c., may be obtained from the Hon. Director, Carnegie House, 117, Piccadilly, W.1.

A lantern and operator can also be provided for any lectures given at Carnegie House, the charge for which is 25s. including the operator's fee.

Finance. The question of finance is one which is causing the Central Council considerable anxiety. As will be seen from the accounts for 1926-27 at the end of the Report, there has been an excess of expenditure over income of £778 18s. 8d. The increase of this deficit was due to the reduction in the annual grant made by the Joint Council of the Order of St. John of Jerusalem and the British Red Cross Society. As a result, it has become necessary for the Central Council to sell out some of its investments.

A Finance Committee was formed and has gone into the income and expenditure of the past year, but without curtailing the work of the Council, it does not seem possible to reduce expenses. It will therefore be necessary to formulate some scheme whereby a

sufficient sum is forthcoming annually to secure the expenses of the Central Council, if the Central Council is to continue.

The Central Council gratefully acknowledges grants and donations towards its general funds and towards the Travelling Exhibitions from:—

The Joint Council of the Order of St. John of Jerusalem and the British Red Cross Society,

The Institute of Infant Welfare Fund, and

The London Federation of Infant Welfare Centres.

The Council wishes also to express its thanks to the following voluntary helpers who have given much assistance, and who have worked so regularly during the year:—

Miss Prunella Beckett.

Miss Browne.

Miss Buck.

Miss Curtiss.

Mrs. Holmes.

Miss Hulbert.

Mrs. Leighton Stevens.

Miss Tomlin.

CHILD WELFARE TRAVELLING EXHIBITIONS.

1ST APRIL, 1926—31ST MARCH, 1927.

During the past year the work of the Child Welfare Travelling Exhibitions has been greatly developed. The exhibitions have been much enlarged, and when an entire exhibition can be displayed, 150 feet in length of floor and wall space are required in order to arrange the exhibits to the best advantage. In arranging health exhibitions it is being more fully realised that exhibits should be of an entirely educational nature, and the outstanding success at Hull and Rotherham, where this was carried out, proved by the enormous attendances that the general public is anxious to learn. and no longer regards a health exhibition as a place for securing free samples.

There are now two complete Travelling Exhibitions; Miss Keating, the Organiser, acts as lecturer and demonstrator to one exhibition, and Miss Dodd, the Assistant Organiser, as the lecturer and demonstrator to the other exhibition.

These exhibitions have visited the following places:—

Central Hall, Westminster—Nursing and Midwifery Exhibition.

Leicester—Nation's Health Exhibition.

Exeter—Education Week and Exhibition.

Leeds—Leeds Babies' Welcome Association.

Caxton Hall—English-Speaking Conference on Infant Welfare.

Hythe—Hythe Infant Welfare Centre.
 Altrincham—Maternity and Child Welfare Committee.
 Barking—Health Exhibition.
 Cheltenham—Cheltenham Voluntary Health Society.
 Middleton Square—Maternity Nursing Association.
 Malvern—Malvern Maternity and Infant Welfare Association.
 Uxbridge—Health Week Exhibition.
 Hull—Health Exhibition.
 Wallington—Child Welfare Week.
 St. Austell—Infant Welfare Committee.
 Truro—Cornwall Health and Home Exhibition.
 Rotherham—Health Week and Exhibition.
 Glossop—Health Week.
 Ipswich—Health Week.
 Fulham—Health Week.
 Heckmondwike—Health Week.
 Braintree—Braintree and Bocking Infant Welfare Committee.
 Tewkesbury—Child Welfare Centre.
 Sheerness—Opening of Infant Welfare Centre.
 Renfrew—Health Week.
 Dumfries
 Kirkconnel
 Lockerbie
 Annan
 Cambridge—Health and Cleanliness Exhibition.

Tour arranged by Dumfriesshire Federation of
 Women's Rural Institutes.

Chichester and Wednesbury were cancelled owing to the General Strike; Orsett and Doncaster were cancelled owing to epidemics.

A small exhibition, which is available when the complete exhibitions are booked, has been collected and sent to :—

Cleethorpes.	Hayward's Heath.
Danehill.	Lowestoft.
East Ham.	Scunthorpe.
Friern Barnet.	Skegness.
Gainsborough.	Swinton.

Exhibits have been lent for special lectures, &c., and sent to :—
 Bingley, Newport, Wakefield, Rugby, Stoke-on-Trent, Sparkbrook,
 Christchurch, St. Austell, Grays, Tilbury, Hastings, Barnsley,
 Manchester branch of the College of Nursing.

Exhibits
Sent
Abroad.

Visitors from abroad show a very keen interest
 in the exhibitions. In other years a number of
 exhibits have been collected and sent to different
 countries, and this year to the Governments of
 Malay and Kenya, and to Infant Welfare Centres
 in India, Colombo and Australia.

**Sections,
Exhibits and
Posters
Collected for
England.**

After an exhibition has visited a locality, there is frequently a request for us to supply one or more permanent exhibits. We are most anxious to help the work of the Centres in this way, but since some exhibits take a considerable time to prepare, as long notice as possible is required.

Sections have been sent to Harpenden, Luton, Dublin, Maidenhead, Nottinghamshire, Burnley, Poole, Leicester, Ipswich, Hornsey, Glossop, Great Malvern, West Riding of Yorkshire, Stockton-on-Tees, Durham.

**Individual
Orders for
Exhibits.**

A very large number of smaller orders have been collected and despatched. The greater number of these come by post, though many are given personally after a visit to the Permanent Exhibition.

**General
Arrangements
for the
Exhibition.**

When the Travelling Exhibitions are booked, a long letter is sent giving full particulars of the necessary arrangements, with suggestions which may be helpful locally. Information is sent regarding advertising, popular attractions, the requirements for the hall, local help, &c. The exhibits take a complete day to arrange and half a day to pack. The exhibitions have lasted from a fortnight to two days according to the size of the place visited.

**Grant from the
Ministry
of Health.**

Local authorities can obtain a 50 per cent. grant from the Ministry of Health towards the expenses of the exhibition if arranged by the Authority responsible for the Maternity and Child Welfare work.

The fees charged are kept as low as possible in order to enable the smaller places to have the exhibition. They do not cover the upkeep, the damage to the exhibits alone being a very considerable item. In addition to the demonstrations given by the Organisers, innumerable lectures are given for which no extra fee is charged, and the Organisers are often asked to be on duty for twelve or more hours.

**Lantern
Lectures.**

Very popular features of the exhibitions are the sets of lantern slides with which the Organisers give lantern lectures in the evenings if a lantern and operator are available. These slides include a large selection on the work at Maternity and Child Welfare Centres, Care of the School Child, Dental Care, Heliotherapy, &c. The lectures are suitable for a mixed audience, and

elder school children. A noticeable feature of the exhibitions is the number of fathers and young men who attend and show much keen and intelligent interest. The lantern lectures appeal especially to them, and the halls have often been crowded out. They are also very interested in the exhibits on sunlight, food, dental care, chamber of horrors, &c. The Organisers are willing to give as many lectures during the week as may be required.

Health Plays.

Health Plays, acted by the local school children, are always advised as one of the attractions. The teachers have in every case shown a splendid spirit of co-operation. These plays, followed by a lantern lecture, will bring crowds to the exhibition. The most popular health plays were those of the Junior Red Cross—"To the Rescue," and "Beauty's Bloom"; the former delightfully acted at Leeds and the latter at Cambridge, and "The Little Vegetable Men," beautifully produced at Heckmondwike, though all of these have been shown at other places with the exhibition with equal success. These plays are obtainable through the Travelling Exhibitions.

Lectures to School Children.

A most important branch of the work of the exhibitions are the health lectures and demonstrations to the school children. Arrangements are made with the local education authorities for the elder children with their teachers to attend in the mornings. The numbers vary according to the size of the place; but should not exceed 300 in any one group attending for one hour, with two of these groups each morning. This number has often been greatly exceeded. A simple health lecture is given to each group by the Organiser, the children then go round the exhibition and demonstrations are given at the different sections. The children all show the keenest interest, making many notes and answering questions very intelligently. The teachers have always been most grateful, and one remarked, "I would not have had my boys miss that for anything."

A Day with the Exhibition.

The day generally begins about 9.30 in the morning when the school children are admitted. Each group has a health lecture for half an hour and demonstrations with the exhibition for half an hour. After the hundreds of school children have left at mid-day, all the exhibits have to be dusted and tidied.

The exhibition, as a rule, opens for the general public at 2.30 and closes at 9 to 10 p.m. Arrangements are usually made for the mothers to attend in the afternoons, coming in groups from their Centres. At Leicester the arrangements for the mothers were excellent. Special trams brought the mothers, and they were given

a series of lecturettes at the different sections of the Travelling Exhibitions by the Organisers, and the mothers showed such interest that a number of them came again in the evenings and brought their husbands.

On the afternoon of the official opening of the exhibitions, the Organisers are generally asked to give an address about the exhibition; on the other afternoons the request is for a lecture on some branch of the Maternity and Child Welfare work. Demonstrations and talks are given continuously at the different sections. The busiest time is in the evenings—usually between 7 o'clock and 9 o'clock—and at times the halls are packed. The lantern lecture in most places is given about 7.30. Numbers of people ask the Organisers for advice as to which particular society they should apply to for assistance, and one father waited half an hour until the school children had left, to ask for such information with regard to his crippled child.

After the exhibition closes at night, the exhibits are covered up.

**Tours in
Rural Areas.**

The exhibitions are appreciated more than anywhere perhaps in rural areas, where in some instances there are no Infant Welfare Centres.

If the county organises a tour, it is possible to go from place to place and thus save travelling expenses. Two years ago very successful tours were arranged in Wigtownshire and Kirkcudbrightshire, and this year Scotland was again visited, Dumfriesshire having arranged a tour after the exhibition had visited Renfrew. In some instances, nearly all the population turned out to see it. A similar tour has been booked for Cardigan-shire. These tours, which last for several weeks, when constant arranging and packing of the exhibits is necessary, are very exhausting for the Organisers. There is no time to sit down, and talking in a crowded hall, often with windows that will not open, is very tiring. It has therefore been necessary to arrange that Miss Dixon should help during the last week of a tour, and she has been of the greatest assistance.

**Assistance
Given
Locally.**

Only one Organiser goes with each exhibition, so efficient local help is absolutely essential. In most places this has been arranged and voluntary helpers, together with the Health Visitors and Nurses, have given invaluable assistance and have shown real co-operation and enthusiasm, but there have been cases where the lack of organisation beforehand and of help during the exhibition have made the work unnecessarily arduous and lessened the success of the exhibition.



[By courtesy of the City of Leicester Health Department.]

SECTIONS OF THE CHILD WELFARE TRAVELLING EXHIBITION.

Renovations and Cleaning.

Each place visited expects the exhibition to look as though it had never been out before, but at the end of the week the dust and grime are unbelievable. Therefore it is necessary for the numerous exhibits to be cleaned constantly. The Assistant Organiser has taken over this branch of the work with great success. She is most ably assisted by our voluntary workers, Miss Buck and Miss Tomlin, who come regularly two or three afternoons a week and their help has been invaluable.

This Spring, every exhibit was overhauled and an inventory made. The approximate value of the exhibitions is:—

Exhibition 1	...	...	£276	14s.	7d.
,, 2	...	...	£234	2s.	10½d.
,, 3	...	...	£56	0s.	1d.
Permanent Exhibition			£281	1s.	9d.
Stock	...	...	£143	0s.	6½d.

In view of the value of the Travelling Exhibitions and the risk of damage, loss or fire, when on view or travelling throughout the country, they have now been insured.

The literature sold at the bookstall amounted to £108 13s. 4d.

The letters received numbered 1,360.

The letters sent out numbered 1,748, in addition to many hundreds of parcels and packets.

Permanent Exhibition.

The Permanent Exhibition in Room 8 and the Poster Exhibition in the Lecture Hall are very much appreciated by visitors to Carnegie House. Arrangements are made for groups of students to be taken over the exhibition if an appointment is made beforehand, but all interested in Child Welfare are welcome.

CORNWALL FEDERATION OF INFANT WELFARE CENTRES.

Hon. Secretary : MRS. SHARP, 18, Lemon Street, Truro.

Representative on C.C.I.C.W. : MRS. PETHERICK.

The great work of the Cornwall Federation during the past year has been helping to run the Health Exhibition in Truro, which was held last November.

The Travelling Exhibition from Headquarters, brought down by Miss Keating and Miss Dodd, was much appreciated and representatives from Centres all over the County helped them in showing

the exhibits. There were Health Lectures and films daily during the week and although the entrance fee was only 3d. the Exhibition paid its way and had a small profit.

The Federation has also bought a very good series of Infant Welfare posters and is sending them round the outlying Centres in two lots. They are to be kept a month at each Centre as it is though that this will stimulate the mothers' interest.

It is necessary to emphasise once more the fact that as Cornwall is such a scattered County with difficult and expensive train communications, it is difficult to organise much united effort.

HERTFORDSHIRE FEDERATION FOR MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE.

President : THE MARCHIONESS OF SALISBURY.

Hon. Secretary : MISS HOLDSWORTH.

Representative on Central Council : MRS. JEBB.

The work done at the Voluntary Maternity and Child Welfare Centres during the year has been most satisfactory.

There are twelve Voluntary and nine Weighing Centres in the County, as well as County Council Centres, but the reports of the latter are not to hand.

The Centres have been open 631 times, 1,348 mothers and 1,667 children have attended. The total attendances of children is now 12,499. The following figures may also be of interest :—

Deaths	...	...	...	...	9
Expectant Mothers attending	...	...	...	...	154
Infant Consultations	...	...	...	...	3,093
Mothers	...	...	...	...	135
Ante-natal	...	...	...	...	251
Talks to Mothers	...	...	...	...	143
Doctor's Attendances	...	...	...	...	273

During the year the Health Visiting work has been carried out by 107 Health Visitors. 3,802 of the 4,634 babies born alive (excluding Watford Urban District) have been visited by the Health Visitors. From the Health Visitors' returns it is shown that 2,461 were breast fed, 991 were partly breast fed and 320 were bottle fed. 75.2 per cent. were up to the average weight.

Of the babies visited, 112 died before reaching the age of one year, showing a mortality of 29.4 per 1,000.

423 babies left the County before completing their first year. In all cases where the addresses could be obtained, it was forwarded to the local Health Authority.

Massage and Orthopædic Scheme.

The Orthopædic work organised by the Red Cross Society is a wonderful asset to the Public Health amongst the Infant life in the County. 251 Infants were treated at the Massage and Orthopædic Clinics during the past year.

There are 8 Massage Clinics and 3 After-care Centres in the County, at 6 of which Orthopædic Centres are held. These are visited by Orthopædic Surgeons and by the County Supervisor.

It is gratifying to see how grateful the public is for this branch of Health work, whenever they have benefited from it. The Organisers are confident that the preventive work they are doing by taking the cases in their infancy will have a far-reaching effect in lessening the cripples in our midst.

The Royal National Orthopædic Hospital, and the County Branch at Brockley Hill receive those patients who are recommended as in-patients. Many cases attend the former hospital as out-patients for minor operations, and all of these return to the Clinics where the necessary after-care treatment is carried out, thus lessening the time they need to occupy a bed in a hospital. This alone should be of incalculable use, as everyone knows what a long waiting list there is for every bed in our hospitals.

NORTH WESTERN FEDERATION FOR MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE.

President and Representative on Central Council : MISS MARGARET BEAVAN,
J.P., C.C.

Chairman : DR. SPENCE, Eccles.

Hon. Secretary : DR. JESSIE VALENTINE, Springfield Maternity Hospital,
Rochdale.

During the past year the Federation has carried on successfully, and has had some interesting meetings. At the January meeting it was suggested that the Federation should meet three times a year instead of quarterly. The Secretary pointed out the difficulty of arranging for four meetings, and also fitting in dates, as one should take place the end of December. After a discussion it was proposed by Dr. Doyle, Colne, seconded and carried that the Federation should meet three times a year on the last Fridays in January, June and October.

Resignation of Hon. Treasurer.

In January, 1926, Mrs. Heap was obliged to resign from her position as Hon. Treasurer owing to ill-health. Her resignation was accepted with regret and a hearty vote of thanks was passed to her for the interest she had shown in the Federation. Mrs. Percy Lever of Bolton kindly consented to take her place.

Resignation of Chairman.

At the October meeting the Secretary read a letter she had received from Dr. Bates asking to be relieved of his position of Chairman owing to pressure of work. His resignation was accepted with regret and a vote of thanks was passed for the work he had done. Dr. Spence of Eccles having signified his willingness to stand, it was proposed by Dr. Chisholm, seconded by Miss Langdon and carried that he be elected Chairman.

The January Meeting was held at Middleton.

A visit was paid to the C.W.S. Jam Factory, and later a paper was read by Dr. Begge, M.O.H., on "The Law and the Child."

The paper was both interesting and instructive, and was followed by a discussion.

The June Meeting was held at Rochdale.

A visit was paid to the Springfield Maternity Hospital, which is beautifully situated in a park outside the town.

Later, at the Town Hall, a paper was read by Dr. A. G. A. Anderson, M.O.H., on "The best methods of Combating a high Maternal Mortality." He said the subject was not usually considered from a wide enough basis. Maternal Mortality was not a separate subject in itself, but was part of a much larger question, and it was therefore necessary to remember that there were certain laws of nature from which there was no immunity. It was the quality of race which determined its disappearance or survival. He considered that the advent of the pre-natal clinic was one of the most important steps in preventive medicine in recent years. Dr. Anderson then went into considerable detail as to what should be attempted at these clinics.

Many members took part in the discussion which followed.

The October Meeting

was held at the Babies' Hospital, Manchester, and was much enjoyed by the members, who were conveyed to the Hospital in charabancs. After inspecting the open-air wards the members

adjourned to the large hall, when an interesting address was given by Dr. Chisholm on "Rickets and its relation to Sunlight." She pointed out that Rickets greatly affected the Respiratory tract, and that maternal mortality is largely caused by rachitic formation in girls. She gave examples of the benefit obtained from ultra-violet rays not only for the child but for improving the mother's milk.

In the discussion which followed Dr. Spence spoke of smoke and bad mothercraft as potent causes of rickets.

He proposed a hearty vote of thanks to Dr. Chisholm for her paper and to the Board of the Hospital for their hospitality. This was seconded by Dr. Talent.

THE YORKSHIRE FEDERATION FOR MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE.

President : H.R.H. PRINCESS MARY VISCOUNTESS LASCELLES.

Vice-Presidents : ROBINIA, VISCOUNTESS MOUNTGARRET, O.B.E.

LADY BEATRICE LISTER-KAYE.

LADY NUNBURNHOLME.

LADY CALVERT, J.P.

MRS. EDWIN GRAY, J.P.

MRS. E. KITSON-CLARK.

MISS CUDWORTH.

MRS. CURREN-BRIGGS, M.B.E.

MRS. EDWARD SHAW, O.B.E., J.P.

DR. LAURA VEALE.

DR. J. R. KAYE, D.P.H., Ch.B.

Chairman of Executive Committee :

MAJOR SIR ROBERT L. BOWER, K.B.E., C.M.G.

Hon. Secretary and Treasurer : MISS STAINTHORP, M.B.E.

Organising Secretary for West Riding : MISS MARGARET E. RICHARDS.

Office : The Red Cross Office, Northallerton.

The Yorkshire Federation continues to make progress and during the past year much active work has been accomplished.

At the annual meeting held at York in March it was announced that the Federation had been honoured by H.R.H. Princess Mary Viscountess Lascelles, who had graciously consented to become President, in succession to Lady Irwin. A very able address was given to a large audience by Professor Louise McIlroy on the problem of "Maternal Mortality," which was followed by an interesting discussion. Dr. Laura Veale took the Chair.

In December a very successful Conference was held at Harrogate when Dr. Saleeby gave one of his interesting and illustrated addresses on "Sunlight and the Child."

Mrs. Edwin Gray reports that during the year the Illegitimacy Sub-Committee (of which she is Chairman) have had several cases brought to their notice, and have been able to arrange for three cases to be taken into Homes.

The Yorkshire Children's Orthopædic Hospital, which is the property of the Federation, is now well established and doing very valuable work under the care of a Resident Surgeon and visiting Hon. Consulting Surgeons. 101 children are now in residence, and a new staff wing has just been added at a cost of nearly £2,000.

The membership of the Federation remains at 123, which number is representative of the various Societies and people concerned with the work of Maternity and Child Welfare in the county.

A small Sub-Committee has been set up to formulate some scheme for the provision of a Home for Mothers and Babies, the need for which is a very urgent one, and the Committee hope that when an Appeal is launched in the near future a generous response will be made.

Since our last report the Federation has sustained a great loss in the death of Lady Beresford-Peirse, who was one of the Vice-Presidents, and whose untiring and sympathetic work will be very greatly missed.

ASSOCIATION OF INFANT WELFARE AND MATERNITY CENTRES.

Founded 1911.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

Chairman : Dr. ERIC PRITCHARD.

Vice-Chairmen : MISS M. BEAVAN, MISS BUNTING, MRS. DUNCAN HARRIS,
PROFESSOR H. R. KENWOOD.

Hon. Secretaries : MISS J. HALFORD and DR. FLORA SHEPHERD.

Medical Members.

*DR. ANDREWS (Uxbridge).

*MR. C. PEYTON BALY (British Dental Association).

*DR. BEGGS (Middleton).

DR. ALICE BENHAM (North Camberwell).

*DR. M. A. BENNER (Newport).

- DR. M. BLAIR (Women's League of Service Centres).
 DR. MABEL BRODIE (Durham County Council).
 DR. ETHEL CASSIE (Birmingham).
 DR. STELLA CHURCHILL (West Hackney).
 *DR. EMSLIE (Edmonton).
 *DR. L. GREIG (Northamptonshire).
 DR. ELIZABETH KARN (Sydenham).
 DR. KENWOOD (Stoke Newington).
 DR. MIALI-SMITH (Welwyn Garden City).
 DR. AGNES NICOLL (Willesden).
 DR. OUTRAM (Edmonton).
 *DR. E. PICKARD (Tooting).
 DR. ERIC PRITCHARD (Infants' Hospital, Vincent Square).
 DR. FLORA SHEPHERD (Hornsey).
 DR. MAUD SWANSON (Women's League of Service).
 DR. RUBY THOMSON (Fulham).
 *MRS. CYRIL WALKER, M.D. (Bristol).
 *DR. WOODHOUSE (Llandudno).

Lay Members.

- THE HON. MRS. ACLAND (Welwyn).
 *MISS BAKER (St. Marylebone).
 MISS M. BEAVAN (Liverpool).
 *MISS BIBBY (Grafton Road).
 MISS BOWDEN-SMITH (Chelsea).
 *MISS BUNTING (St. Pancras).
 *MRS. CHARLESWORTH (Northampton).
 MRS. KITSON CLARK (Leeds).
 *MRS. DURNFORD (Workers' Section).
 MRS. DUNCAN HARRIS (Croydon).
 *HON. MRS. HAMILTON (Mothers' Union).
 *MRS. LANGTON HEWER.
 *MRS. A. V. HILL (Hornsey).
 MRS. F. G. JOSEPH (South Islington).
 MISS NORAH MARCH (Holborn).
 MRS. MIALI-SMITH (South Highgate).
 *MRS. RADFORD (Malvern).
 MRS. CAREW ROBINSON (Dame Colet, Stepney).
 MRS. JOHN SEBAG-MONTEFIORE (Jewish Mothers' Welcome).
 MRS. ROY TRUSCOTT (Earls Court).
 MRS. TURNBULL (Bucks).
 MISS N. WILLIAMS (Amphill Square).

*Co-opted Members.

Offices : Carnegie House, 117, Piccadilly, W.1.

Telephone : Grosvenor 1140.

Membership.

By the end of 1926 the Association consisted of 1,177 local Infant Welfare Centres, including several attached to Military Commands in the United Kingdom, in India and in Egypt. All these Centres kept in close touch with the Association throughout the year, supplying information as to the latest developments in their work, obtaining their stocks of casepapers and other record-keeping documents from the Association, at the specially reduced rates allowed to affiliated institutions, and receiving help and

information from headquarters on a very wide range of subjects germane to such Centres. The income derived from these affiliations amounted to £413, being at the modest rate of $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. of the expenditure during the previous year, with a minimum of 5s. and a maximum of £2 2s., thus enabling every Centre, no matter how small, to join the parent body and secure the benefits of affiliation.

Benefits of Affiliation.

The advantages to be derived from affiliation are as follows:—

1. Centres subscribing not less than 10s. per annum are entitled to receive, free of charge, a copy of each issue of "National Health."
2. They are entitled to a special discount of 25 per cent. on the price of nearly all the publications issued by the National League for their benefit.
3. They may appoint from one to four representatives on the General Council of the Association, according to the amount of the subscription paid.
4. Their members may borrow books from the League's library, on payment of postage, both ways.
5. They may be represented at any public meetings or conferences organised by the Association in London or the provinces at reduced fees.
6. They are entitled to the use of the Infant Welfare Workers' Employment Bureau at reduced fees.
7. They may participate in the free distribution of garments and woollies, made from time to time, out of the gifts received by the Association.
8. They may enter their members for the National Mothercraft Competitions.
9. They may enter their members for the Mothercraft Examinations held by the Association.
10. They are entitled to award to their members the Association's Certificate for regular attendance at the Centre.
11. They have first claim on the beds at any of the League's residential Homes for Mothers and Babies.

Competitions.

Ever since it was founded in 1911 the Association has made it one of its foremost aims to improve the standard of the medical and educational work done by the Centres. This is accomplished to a considerable extent by the organisation of Competitions among the Centres, in connection with which the medical and other records kept have to be produced for each competitor, as well as the work of the latter. In this way considerable influence has been exerted on the methods employed in keeping the necessary records

and many a Centre has mended its ways when it was found that it lost marks in this class through defective records, and so had no chance of securing the much-coveted Challenge Shield. The National Mothercraft Challenge Shield was won in 1926 by the Trinity Road, Birmingham, Infant Welfare Centre.

The three Rhondda Mothercraft Challenge Shields for essays on mothercraft written by mothers attending Centres were won by Halesowen, Aberdeen (Woodside) and Bray, representing England, Scotland, and Ireland respectively.

The Shield competed for by the elementary schoolgirls was secured by the Leigh Street School, Hyde, the school entries being exceptionally numerous in 1926, welcome evidence that more attention than heretofore is now being paid to the important subject of mothercraft for schoolgirls.

Children Discharged from Hospital.

The question of the after-care of children under school age, discharged from Hospital, has occupied the attention of the Executive Committee for some time. Owing, no doubt, to the fact that there is no one central authority in London concerned with maternity and child welfare, it was found that within the Metropolitan and Greater London areas, where the large majority of the Hospitals attended are entirely independent institutions, scattered over the administrative areas of many different Local Authorities, it is only the Fever Hospitals which invariably notify the local Medical Officer of Health of patients about to be discharged and issue printed instructions to parents. The other London Hospitals vary considerably in their practice, some having no visiting almoners, and others not following up their cases afterwards. In some of the smaller special Hospitals for children the arrangements made leave little to be desired, but there are many of the General Hospitals that do too little, some do nothing, others again go far to meet the necessities of the case.

It was agreed to suggest to all Hospitals dealing with mothers and children under five that there should be routine notification to the appropriate Medical Officer of Health whenever such cases required after-care advice or assistance on discharge from Hospital, the Local Authority meeting the cost of postage, printing and stationery. A letter to this effect was sent to all the Hospitals in London and Greater London before the close of the year.

Special Discussions.

From time to time the Executive Committee calls in the aid of experts on special subjects and discusses them thoroughly at its quarterly meetings. The subjects so dealt with during the year

under review included the following:—"Should Medical Officers be free to give information on birth control at Infant Welfare Centres in individual cases?"; "The bearing of child welfare work on the prevention of mental deficiency"; and "What can be done for physical development and the prevention of physical defects among toddlers at Infant Welfare Centres?". These discussions all proved so interesting, that they were subsequently published, either in the journal "National Health," the organ which is officially recognised by the Association and the other allied Societies forming the National League, or in the Report of the fourth English-speaking Conference on Maternity and Child Welfare.

Voluntary Workers.

In spite of the increase in the number of municipal, as compared with voluntary Centres, it is most satisfactory to record that there is no falling off in the appreciation accorded to voluntary workers at both types of Centres. There is no doubt but that it is the happy combination of voluntary and official workers that makes for the continued success of these institutions.

Although the supply of volunteers is still unequal to the demand, more seem to be forthcoming than in any of the post-war years. The Association is always in a position to offer congenial work at one or other of its Centres, and many staunch friends and supporters have in this way been found. There is work waiting for all who care to apply, and in this connection the register of work offered and of volunteers available, now published monthly in "National Health," is proving a useful liaison.

CENTRAL COMMITTEE FOR THE CARE OF CRIPPLES.

Founded 1919.

Office : Carnegie House, 117, Piccadilly, W.1.

Telephone : Grosvenor 2929.

**Chairman* : SIR ROBERT JONES, BART., F.R.C.S.

**Vice-Chairman* : THE HON. LADY LAWRENCE, Education Committee, L.C.C.

Hon. Secretary : A. H. WOOD, ESQ., C.B.

Secretary : MISS M. D. MILLER, M.A.

*D. McCRAE AITKEN, ESQ., F.R.C.S.

THE REV. RATCLIFFE BARNETT.

MISS MARGARET BEAVAN, J.P., C.C.

THE LORD HENRY BENTINCK, M.P.

ARTHUR BLACK, ESQ.

*W. R. BRISTOW, ESQ., F.R.C.S.

N. C. CARVER, ESQ., M.B.

- MISS CHAPMAN.
 MRS. KITSON CLARKE.
 W. A. COCHRANE, Esq., M.B., Ch.B.
 PROFESSOR LYLE CUMMINS, C.B., C.M.G., F.R.C.S.
 NAUGHTON DUNN, Esq., M.A., M.D.
 *R. C. ELMSLIE, Esq., F.R.C.S.
 H. A. T. FAIRBANK, Esq., F.R.C.S.
 THE HON. LADY ESSEX FRENCH.
 *G. R. GIRDLESTONE, Esq., F.R.C.S.
 S. P. GRUNDY, Esq., O.B.E.
 MISS HERBERT.
 S. L. HIGGS, Esq., F.R.C.S.
 THE RIGHT HON. MAJOR J. W. HILLS, M.P.
 MISS HOWELL.
 B. WHITCHURCH HOWELL, Esq., F.R.C.S.
 MISS HUMBLE.
 *DAME AGNES HUNT, D.B.E.
 J. E. JOHNSTONE, Esq.
 MRS. GERALD KENRICK.
 *THE RIGHT HON. LORD KENYON, D.L., K.C.V.O.
 *DR. F. BARRIE LAMBERT, C.B.E., L.C.C.
 E. MUIRHEAD LITTLE, Esq., F.R.C.S.
 MISS MACINTYRE.
 *T. HARTLEY MARTIN, Esq., M.B.
 ARTHUR MORLEY, Esq.
 *MRS. MUNRO.
 HARRY PLATT, Esq., M.S., F.R.C.S.
 DAME JESSIE WILTON PHIPPS, L.C.C., J.P.
 *W. T. GORDON PUGH, Esq., M.D., B.S.
 *MRS. BRITTON-SCHUYLER.
 THE LADY SHEFFIELD.
 THE HON. SIR ARTHUR STANLEY, G.B.E., C.B., M.V.O.
 MISS E. M. STOREY, O.B.E.
 MRS. ST. LOE STRACHEY, O.B.E.
 SIR CHARTERS SYMONDS, C.B., F.R.C.S.
 SIR JOHN LYNN-THOMAS, C.M.G., F.R.C.S.
 *MRS. TOWNSEND.
 MISS TOWNSEND.
 W. H. TRETHOWAN, Esq., F.R.C.S.
 MISS WARD.
 FREDERICK WATSON, Esq.
 COLONEL A. E. M. WEAR, C.M.G., M.D.
 SIR WILLIAM DE COURCY WHEELER, M.D., F.R.C.S.I.
 THE LADY BEATRIX WILKINSON.
 MRS. A. H. WOOD.
 *A. H. WOOD, Esq., C.B.

*Also Members of the Executive Committee.

The work of the Central Committee for the Care of Cripples steadily increased during the year, and several new local schemes were started.

Schemes for the care and cure of cripples were formed in Scotland and in Ireland, and a Welsh Branch of the Central Committee for the Care of Cripples was inaugurated.

New Clinics were opened in Sussex, Hereford, Kent, Warwickshire and Flintshire.

Conferences.

English Speaking Conference.

At the English-Speaking Conference arranged by the National Council for the Prevention of Infant Mortality, held in July, 1926, the Invalid Children's Aid Association and the Central Committee for the Care of Cripples were responsible for one of the Afternoon Sessions, at which Mr. Girdlestone, F.R.C.S., gave an interesting paper on "Team Work for Cripples."

Joint Conference.

A Joint Conference on "The Care of Crippled and Invalid Children" was arranged by the Invalid Children's Aid Association and the Central Committee for the Care of Cripples in November, at the Great Hall of the British Medical Association in Tavistock Square, by kind permission of the Council, and the large attendances at the sessions showed the great interest which was taken in the subjects to be discussed. Over 500 delegates from all parts of the United Kingdom attended, and many interesting discussions resulted from the various points raised. A great debt is owed to all speakers and others who helped to make the Conference such a success.

A full report of the Conference is given in the January, 1927, issue of the "Cripples' Journal."

Education Committee.

The Progress Cards drawn up and issued by the Education Sub-Committee have been approved by the Board of Education. They are in use in a great number of Hospital Schools, and it is agreed that they are of great assistance to both the Schools and the Education Authorities concerned.

Refresher Course.

A "Refresher Course" for Teachers in Hospital Schools and Schools for Physically Defective Children was held from 20th September to 2nd October. This Course was arranged by the Board of Education in co-operation with the Central Committee for the Care of Cripples, acting through their Education Sub-Committee, and was organised on behalf of the Board by Mrs. Swallow, Head Mistress of the Meeting House Lane P.D. School, a member of the Education Sub-Committee of the Central Committee for the Care of Cripples.

It was the first time such a Course had been held, and some apprehension was felt beforehand as to its success. All anxiety

as to whether it was wanted was, however, soon dissipated as names of applicants poured in, and finally there were 140 applications for 40 places. A very full time-table of lectures, hand-work and visits to schools was carried out. The students expressed great appreciation and gratitude, coupled with hopes that such a Course might be repeated. The Committee is glad to say that, with the co-operation of the Board of Education, a second Course has been arranged to take place in September, details of which are to be circulated.

Case Committee.

This Committee dealt with a large number of cases applying for advice and assistance. These were, most frequently, extremely difficult cases with which other societies were unable to deal. The difficulty of finding training and employment for boys and girls of over school age has not decreased, and the need for extension of the work in this connection is still as great as ever.

Resignation of Hon. Secretary.

It was with the greatest regret the Committee received the news of Mrs. Townsend's resignation owing to her health. It is impossible to thank her enough for all the time and valuable assistance she has so generously given for the past six years. The Committee is glad to think that although she has been obliged to give up the Hon. Secretaryship, she will still continue to give her help and advice in the future as a member of the Central and Executive Committees, and it sincerely hopes that she soon may be completely restored to health.

Dr. Carver and Mr. A. H. Wood kindly consented to act as Joint Hon. Secretaries when Mrs. Townsend resigned, and Dr. Carver remained at work till the end of the year when he resigned on going abroad. The Committee is deeply indebted to him for his valuable work during a time of great difficulty. Early in 1927 the Committee appointed Miss M. D. Miller, M.A., as full-time Secretary, and the Committee are glad that after a transitional period of some six months they are again in possession of a highly qualified staff at Headquarters.

Cripples' Journal.

While the number of subscribers to the "Cripples' Journal" is gradually increasing, the Committee still feels that this is not sufficiently widely known.

The Committee is anxious that the Journal should serve as a means of keeping everyone concerned in touch with the work

throughout the country. To this end information will be welcomed which would be suitable for inclusion in reports on the progress of work being done for cripples.

INCORPORATED MIDWIVES' INSTITUTE.

Founded 1881.

Incorporated 1889.

The Association of Certified Midwives and Trained Nurses' Club.

OBJECTS.

1. To raise the efficiency and improve the status of midwives.
2. To establish a centre of information for the public.
3. To provide a good medical lending library and club-room for friendly meetings.
4. To arrange courses of medical lectures and to afford opportunities for discussion on subjects connected with the profession.
5. The doing of all things necessary to promote the efficiency, comfort and development of midwives..

President : MISS RAMSDEN.

Trustee : W. G. DUNCAN, ESQ.

Treasurer : MISS ROSALIND PAGET.

Assistant Treasurer : MRS. BRUCE RICHMOND.

Representatives on the Central Midwives' Board :

DR. FAIRBAIRN. MISS POLLARD. MISS PEARSON.

Assistant Hon. Secretaries :

Defence and Protection : MISS MELLY.

Library : MISS MARY TOYNBEE.

Secretary : MISS EDITH SIMPSON.

Offices : 12, Buckingham Street, Strand, W.C.2.

Telephone : Gerrard 1184.

The Institute has entered its 46th year since foundation and 38th since incorporation.

Under the Midwives' Acts, 1902 and 1918, the Central Midwives' Board is the governing authority for all Midwives in England and Wales. The Midwives' Institute nominates three members of this Board as its representatives, one medical practitioner and two midwives.

The amending Act which passed in 1926 was watched through its progress in the Houses of Parliament with great care and the Midwives' Institute obtained the amendments it wanted.

1926 has been a busy year. New affiliated associations have been formed, making the total number now 110. The speakers have visited thirty of the Associations during the year.

The Midwives' Institute works hard to encourage in every way Post-Certificate Instruction for Midwives in practice.

Two Scholarships have been awarded in 1926.

Midwives have been encouraged to ask their Local supervising authorities for such instruction, and in many cases, with satisfactory results. In other cases the affiliated associations have themselves organised courses of Post-Certificate Instruction for their members.

There have been Post-Certificate lectures given at the Institute for Teachers of Midwifery, and in the autumn an examination for teachers was held and a Diploma granted to eleven successful candidates.

The Defence and Protection Committee (affiliated to the Institute) continues to do very useful work. The Associations are now feeling the need of such help and are asking the parent body to organise it for them.

The Rainy Day Benevolent Fund to help members in temporary trouble is growing and is much appreciated as well as often needed.

In 1924 the Institute published a small book "Practical Notes for Midwives," in 1925 "The Midwife in Practice," and in 1926 "The Midwives' Guide to the College of Surgeons' Museum," in 1926 "Lecture on the Teaching of Midwifery." These and the visits to help the Midwives in the country have been made a possibility by the gift of the Central Council in 1920, which has been most carefully apportioned for each year. It has now all been spent but has been of the greatest use in helping the Institute to undertake work for the improvement, organisation and instruction of Midwives that could not otherwise have been financed.

Midwives who live too far away to benefit by the social and professional life of the Club still feel the advantage of belonging to an Institute where their interests are the first consideration, and the fact that they belong to a body to which they have a right to apply for help and advice in professional difficulties strengthens that feeling of *esprit de corps* so necessary to the well-being of isolated workers.

"Nursing Notes and Midwives' Chronicle" (3d. a month, 4d. post free) is the organ of the Midwives' Institute, and publishes each month full information on matters of importance to Certified Midwives, especially in regard to their practice and the various Acts of Parliament which affect them. Reports of the Central Midwives' Board are published each month, also full reports of the Midwives' Institute and its affiliated associations. Also reports of the Post-Certificate School and the Overseas Nursing Association.

INVALID CHILDREN'S AID ASSOCIATION.

Founded 1888.

Incorporated 1907.

Patron :

HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN.

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During the year 1926 the work of the Invalid Children's Aid Association has very much increased. There are now 28 London Branches and 27 London Districts, so that the whole area is covered. In these are included the new L.C.C. Housing areas. The work in the district of Leyton has been re-arranged and an I.C.A.A. Sub-Committee covers the areas of Lewisham, Forest Hill, Sydenham, Downham and Bellingham, while the district of Charlton is also being re-organised. The work of the I.C.A.A. in the provinces (there are now 52 Provincial Branches) is also showing a steady increase and inquiries are being received from all over the country. A great amount of work has been done in co-operation with the Central Committee for the Care of Cripples. Advice has been given and where possible arrangements for treatment and convalescence have been made.

The number of new cases referred for help during the year by Hospitals, Dispensaries, &c., number 11,019, as compared with 10,663 in 1925 and the present number of children under the care of the Association is 48,959.

In April of last year the L.C.C. notified the I.C.A.A. that owing to an action on the part of the Treasury they were no longer able to use the contributions fund for tubercular children and that in future all such cases would be convalesced by the Council.

They expressed their sorrow at the termination of the arrangements with the I.C.A.A. and their appreciation of the work done in the past. The Association was asked by the Council to continue the contact scheme and to work with the Council as in the old agreement for the provision of surgical instruments to T.B. children and clothing to T.B. children who have returned from or are about to go to Convalescent Institutions or Sanatoria. The old scheme terminated on 31st July, 1926, but as it was not possible to return all children sent away previous to that date, the Council continued their grant to such cases until the end of the stay.

The L.C.C. were approached by the I.C.A.A. on the need for increased accommodation for treatment of children suffering from rheumatic heart disease and chorea. A reply was received outlining the arrangements made by the M.A.B. to cope with the problem, *i.e.*, 60 beds reserved at Queen Mary's Hospital mainly for purposes of research work, and 16 beds for girls for cases of the later stages.

Co-operation between Hospitals and the Association has been very close and efforts are being made to obtain the presence of a medical man on all Case Committees, as the importance of expert medical advice is very fully recognised.

Three Council Meetings have been held during the year. In July the meeting was merged into the special Session allotted to the Association and the Central Committee for the Care of Cripples at the fourth English-Speaking Conference on Maternity and Child Welfare. Dr. Poynton spoke on rheumatic heart trouble and Mr. Girdlestone spoke on the necessity for co-operation between the work of the I.C.A.A. and C.C.C.C. with the Central Council for Infant and Child Welfare. The Council meeting in November took the form of a Joint Conference between the Central Committee for the Care of Cripples and the Invalid Children's Aid Association. Lord Eustace Percy, President of the Board of Education, gave the opening address and the speakers at the Conference represented as widely as possible the various organisations throughout the country interested in the welfare of cripples and invalid children. Brief mention can be made of the subjects dealt with:— A general survey of the work for invalid and crippled children in the British Empire, in America and on the Continent, with possible future developments: The preventive side of the work with papers on Rickets, Rheumatic Heart Disease and Tuberculosis, with mention of the need for the education of Public Opinion; Unity of effort in the work for cripples and invalids and the need for co-operation between Local Authorities and Voluntary Societies. The third Council Meeting was held in March and dealt with the question of how best to ensure the continuation of treatment of children

suffering from anterior poliomyelitis after the initial stage. Mention was made of the L.C.C. facilities for such treatment, and speeches were given by Dr. Knobel, Dr. Riddock and Mr. Sangster Simmonds.

St. Michael's Convalescent Home, Southbourne, has been handed over to the I.C.A.A. during the year.

The Heart Home at Hartfield was given up on 31st March, 1927, and a property has been acquired at West Wickham, which seems eminently suitable for heart cases. There is accommodation for thirty patients and open-air shelters are being built. The property was chosen by a Committee of Heart Specialists who have supervised all details in connection with the Home. The first patients were admitted in April.

The Homes Committee is responsible for the welfare of I.C.A.A. children in Convalescent, Nursing and Boarding-Out Homes. The Central Office, Branches and other Societies interested in the care of London children are represented on this Committee, which meets once a month. There is an approved list of Homes which are regularly inspected. This confidential list has been recently revised and there are now 181 Homes, including Boarding-Out Centres. A rota of volunteer inspectors of Homes has been started consisting of trained nurses who have had experience in the management of Homes and it is hoped to add to the list. A system of insurance against accidents has been arranged affecting children boarded-out under supervision. The Association has used all its influence to arrange education in the Homes used for the children and every year demonstrates the good effect of this policy on the general well-being of the children. Much of the expense of sending children away for convalescent treatment could be spared if more Convalescent letters for these Homes were available.

It should be mentioned that the I.C.A.A. has now nine Convalescent Homes for which it is directly responsible. These Homes are :—

The Countess Brownlow Home, Ashridge.
 Brooklands Homes, Worthing.
 Clevedon Home, Broadstairs.
 Edgar Lee Home, Willesden.
 Florence Emma Home, Kearsney.
 Hamilton House, Seaford.
 Hawkenbury Home, near Tunbridge Wells.
 St. Michael's, Southbourne.
 Home for Heart Cases (Heartsease), West Wickham.

The Joint Committee of the I.C.A.A. and the Central Committee for the Care of Cripples has held five meetings during the year and efforts are being made to secure development in propaganda work. A list of Speakers has been made, and work in new districts is being initiated. Provincial towns and districts are

showing an encouraging amount of interest and many inquiries are being received.

The P.D. Schools Standing Sub-Committee has done much valuable work during the year. It has been fortunate enough to secure Miss Morton, Chief Organiser of L.C.C. Care Committee work, as a member of the Committee. An informal Conference was held between members of the Sub-Committee and representatives from P.D. Schools. Various subjects of interest were discussed such as admissions of heart cases to P.D. Schools, Statutory Examinations, Types of Schools, Massage Difficulties, Medical Inspections, &c. A Handbook entitled "Care of the Invalid and Crippled Child in School" has been written by Mr. Elmslie and Dr. Fairfield and is being widely appreciated. There is no doubt that co-operation between I.C.A.A. and P.D. Schools is proving of great practical assistance to all concerned and this co-operation is becoming closer year by year.

The I.C.A.A. has been making great efforts to obtain successful after-care for children suffering from encephalitis lethargica and inquiries from the M.A.B. show that accommodation for such cases can be provided at the Northern Hospital, Winchmore Hill.

Difficulty was experienced by the I.C.A.A. with regard to payment for children in Convalescent Homes, who, owing to infectious illness are obliged to go to Isolation Hospitals. After correspondence with the M.A.B. it has been ascertained that in the case of infectious disease occurring among London children undergoing convalescent treatment in the country, the maintenance and treatment of such children in local Hospitals is one to be dealt with by the Local Authorities of the district in which the case arises. Such cases would not be treated in London Institutions, and London Authorities would have no liability for the cost of maintaining and treating them out of London.

Many applications are received by the I.C.A.A. for training and it was decided to form a Training and Selection Sub-Committee to draw up a suitable scheme and to interview suitable candidates. This has been done and it is hoped that good results will materialise.

During 1926 the Association has continued to keep in close touch with Sir Henry Gauvain in the after-care of patients formerly at Alton and now attending the Farringdon Dispensary as out-patients. A representative of the I.C.A.A. is present at the Dispensary regularly to form a link between the Home and the Surgeon.

The London Central Spectacles Committee reports that very encouraging results have been achieved by local Spectacles Com-

mitees during 1926 as nineteen out of twenty-three local Committees are now self-supporting. The Central Committee was able to make grants to the four local Committees needing it from the Fund supplied by the British Red Cross Society through the Central Council for Infant and Child Welfare by the good offices of the I.C.A.A. During 1926 26,718 spectacles were ordered and 88.3 per cent. are known to have been obtained.

It may be of interest to mention the type of post which has been obtained during 1926 by former I.C.A.A. children :—

Apprenticed to :—

Compositor	Gardener
Dressmaker	Gilder
Engineer	G.W. Railway Van Boy
Milliner	Hairdresser
Stonemason	Handweaver
Surgical Instrument Maker	In Army
Artificial Flower Maker	Labourer
Aquarium Maker	Leather Dresser
Basket Maker	Lampshade Painter
Bead Worker	Military Badge Cutter
Book Folder	On Training Ship
Bottlewasher	Photographer
Brush Drawer	Plasterer
Biscuit Maker	Silk Pom Pom Maker
Button Finisher	Stencil Cutter
Church Verger	Students at Clark's, Pitman's Colleges and Trade Schools
Clerk to the Borough Council	Telephone Operator
Chemist Assistant	Taxi Driver
Coal Carter	Ticket Writer
Collar Cutter	Tailor
Dental Mechanic	Wallet Maker
Draughtsman	Weaver
Electrician	Warehouseman
Engraver	Typist
Farm Worker	Wicker Worker
Feather Curler	Wireless Telegrapher
French Polisher	Wood Polisher
Flower Maker	
Fur Stitcher	

Various children have, of course, been employed in shops, factories, &c.

Financial help has been received during the year from the Joint War Finance Committee of the British Red Cross Society and Order of St. John of Jerusalem.

In 1926 the income was £84,711 11s. 1d. of which the parents contributed £15,230 1s. 3d.

The expenditure was £84,589 2s. 11d. of which £50,710 15s. 2d. was spent on providing convalescent treatment and £14,894 15s. 4½d. in maintaining I.C.A.A. Special Homes.

THE MOTHERCRAFT TRAINING SOCIETY.

Founded 1918.

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Secretary : MISS AGATHA HAVARD.

The Society has just completed its second year at Cromwell House, and this last year has been made memorable by a visit to the Centre by Her Majesty the Queen, on Saturday, 12th March. This is the second visit with which the Society has been honoured, the first having been in July, 1919, when the work was still in its infancy, Dr., now Sir Truby King, being then the Medical Director. On 12th March Her Majesty was received by Lady Galway, Dr. R. C. Jewesbury and Dr. J. S. Fairbairn, Lord and Lady Dawson of Penn, Hon. Mrs. Hardinge, Mrs. Jewesbury and Mrs. Fairbairn. The Queen visited the Nurseries and was much interested in seeing sunlight treatment being given to babies on the open-air sun balcony.

The Society had a stall at the Nursing and Midwifery Exhibition held in April, 1926, and the Sister-in-Charge had the opportunity of explaining the Society's objects and methods to many nurses.

The Annual Meeting was held on 10th June. The adoption of the new Report was moved by Lady Galway, who spoke about the progress of the work and of hopes of building a Hostel and Mothers' Cottage in the near future, and was seconded by Dr. R. C. Jewesbury. H.H. Princess Helena Victoria graciously acceded to the request of the Committee to come and see the Hospital after the business meeting was over, and was much interested to find that one of her late maids was in the habit of bringing up her baby to the Hospital Clinics.

At the English-Speaking Conference held in July, the Matron, Miss Liddiard, attended as a delegate representing both the Mothercraft Training Society and the Plunket Society. Miss Liddiard has since had a wonderful opportunity of seeing the Plunket Society's work in all its main centres, for in September she left for a visit to New Zealand, where she stayed until January, visiting Sir Truby and Lady King, and travelling round to the various centres of the work both in the North and South Islands with Miss Pattrick, the Director of Plunket Nursing. Miss Liddiard then went on to Australia, where she again saw more of the Plunket work, and returned to Cromwell House in time to resume her duties at the beginning of the Society's new year, 1st April.

" Pound Day " was held on 4th November, and Miss Gladys Cooper very kindly came to receive the gifts, which, as usual, were most generous. £107 ls. 4d. was received in money, and gifts in kind amounted to about £10.

The following figures will tell of the progress of the work:—

Out-patient attendances	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5,324
No. of new cases	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,115
Mothers in for the day for Test weighing	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	446
In-patients.								
No. of babies admitted	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	133
No. of mothers admitted	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	54
Deaths	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	10
Average duration of stay.								
Breast-feeding difficulties	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	30 days.
Malnutrition	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	71 "
Resident normal (domestic staff)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	12-14 months.

The number of Trainees has been as follows:—

Trained Nurses	...	...	20
Midwives	...	...	8
Untrained	...	...	18
Fever Trained	...	...	1
Partially Trained	...	...	1
International Student...	...	...	1
Mothercraft Students...	...	...	48

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR THE PREVENTION OF INFANT MORTALITY.

Founded 1912.

Under the Patronage of Their Majesties King George V and Queen Mary.

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THE RIGHT HONOURABLE VISCOUNT ASTOR.

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Lectures.

The post-graduate courses of lectures for nurses and the elementary and advanced courses for crèche workers took place as usual in London and were well attended. The Association's post-graduate lectures are now held at the Infants' Hospital, Vincent Square, Westminster, and are run in co-operation with the Hospital. The crèche workers' lectures are organised jointly with the National Society of Day Nurseries, and the lecture hall at Carnegie House is often severely taxed to get in all the crèche students who attend these popular lectures.

The difficult economic situation which dominated 1926 made itself felt, however, in the provincial lecture department of the Association. Although all arrangements had been made, at the request of the Local Authority, for a course of lectures to be given at Cardiff in the early autumn of 1926, these arrangements had to be cancelled at the last minute, as a result of the coal strike. Nottingham, also, at which five courses of lectures have been held in past years, decided not to have one this year, so for the first time since the Association started these lectures, none were held in the provinces.

Research Work.

A special Sub-Committee was appointed to investigate the factors which have contributed to the decline in the infant mortality rate, with a view to accelerating this decline if possible.

A questionnaire was issued to appropriate Local Authorities. Many statistical returns were received, the collation of which requires expert handling, before any report or recommendations can be submitted. In the meantime the Association records its grateful thanks to all who have taken part in this investigation.

Refresher Courses for Midwives.

The Sub-Committee appointed in 1925 to consider various schemes for providing midwives, both in urban and in rural areas, with post-graduate instruction, not only prepared an excellent

workable scheme,* but also circulated it to all the Local Supervising Authorities and Training Schools for Midwives throughout the kingdom. Under the scheme, for the drafting of which the Association is deeply indebted to Dr. J. S. Fairbairn, the four following practical suggestions were put forward:—

1. That propaganda work be started in every area with a view to enlisting the interest of the general public in the work.
2. Local Supervising Authorities should consult with County Nursing Associations, institutions training midwives, and other organisations in their area engaged in work that may serve to give further training to practising midwives, with a view to establishing local centres for this purpose.
3. Maternity Hospitals and Charities having the necessary facilities, whether approved by the Central Midwives' Board for the training of pupil midwives or not, should be urged to organise refresher courses and to take practising midwives for further training. There are few districts in which the machinery for such courses cannot be put together, provided the various agencies engaged in maternity and child welfare work are linked up in the scheme.
4. Where the organisation of courses locally is impracticable, the provision of locums and payment of fees to allow practising midwives to attend such refresher courses as are already established is an expenditure that will repay itself in lessened maternal and infantile mortality and disability.

Several Local Authorities decided, on the strength of the representations made to them by the Association, to organise suitable refresher courses for the midwives for whom they are responsible, and it is to be hoped that the practice will quickly be extended and the most up-to-date knowledge on all that pertains to a midwife's work will be available for the majority of these indispensable child welfare workers.

Dietaries for Children Under Five.

Acting on a resolution passed at the First General Congress on Child Welfare, held at Geneva in 1925, the Association devoted much time to the study of dietaries received from Poor Law Authorities in the United Kingdom. As a result, the Association was able to draw up a dietary, to serve as a guide in the feeding of children between the ages of one and five years. This was published and issued to all the Poor Law Authorities in England and Wales, and it was also widely quoted in the Press.

Deserted Wives and their Children.

The Association considered this matter during 1926, but was unable to suggest any alternative to the Summary Jurisdiction

*Published in the June issue of "National Health" and since reprinted as a separate leaflet, of which a copy may be obtained on application to headquarters.

(Separation and Maintenance) Acts of 1895 to 1925. This group of mothers, fortunately not a very large one, still seems to fall between two stools and to have no organisation, other than the Poor Law, to look after their needs.

Annual Conference.

For the fourth time the Annual Conference organised by the National Association for the Prevention of Infant Mortality took the form of an English-Speaking Conference on Maternity and Child Welfare, and as usual attracted a very large audience, whose interest was exceptionally well sustained. The preparation of the programme was carried out by a Special Committee, which included direct representation of all the larger Dominions and of the U.S.A., which undoubtedly helped to make the Conference so successful. Each of the appropriate Sections of the National League made itself responsible for one session, selecting the subjects and speakers and augmenting the general audience. For the first time, the Invalid Children's Aid Association also co-operated, and held a special session, at which "Heart cases of rheumatic origin in young children" and "Work for Cripples" were discussed. Following a precedent already set, the total profit realised by the Conference was divided up among the co-operating national organisations.

A verbatim report of the Conference* was published in the early autumn, of which copies are still available, so it is unnecessary to go into further details here.

International Child Welfare Work.

In November, 1926, the Association agreed to act again as the British Section of the "Union Internationale pour la Protection de l'Enfance du Premier Age," thus renewing the connection which was started in 1907, but lapsed after the Great War. The Association will therefore take an active part in organising the next International Congress, fixed for July, 1928, in Paris.

Heliotherapy and Smoke Abatement.

At the request of the Minister of Health, who was unable to receive the Association's deputation, a reasoned statement was submitted, calling attention to the need of the abatement of smoke from private dwelling-houses, which could be effected by the installation of more modern heating methods. The Association was informed that the Government was pressing forward researches to this end.

*Report of the 4th English-Speaking Conference on Maternity and Child Welfare, London, July, 1926. 210 pages. Price 2s. 6d., post free.

NATIONAL BABY WEEK COUNCIL.

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The tenth year of the National Baby Week Council's activities was a record of increased work and influence. The greatest demand recorded since the War was experienced for the Council's services in connection with local propaganda; Local Baby Weeks, Health Weeks, film displays and the distribution of publications being particularly to the fore.

In accordance with its usual custom the Council, while regarding all aspects of Maternity and Child Welfare as important, selected certain aspects of that problem for special emphasis. During 1926 the subjects thus specially selected were:—

(a) THE CARE OF THE TODDLER.—In this connection, particular attention was drawn to the fact that although the majority of children are born healthy, 40 per cent. of children attaining school age suffer from preventable defects.

(b) THE CARE OF THE MOTHER, Expectant, at Confinement, and General Post-Natal Care—a subject which was selected because of its fundamental importance to the nation, and because the death-rate of mothers in childbirth has been but little reduced by those measures which have halved the infant death-rate during the century.

(c) THE FATHER'S PART IN THE CHILD WELFARE MOVEMENT—a comparatively recent development of Child Welfare work which the Council regarded as an increasingly important factor.

Various National Competitions were held during the year. These were confined to men and women school teachers and school girls and boys under 18 years of age. The competitions were announced during National Baby Week, and the results during Health Week in October. There were over 1,500 entries for these competitions.

The great feature of National Baby Week in London was the Fourth English-Speaking Conference on Maternity and Child Welfare, organised by the National Association for the Prevention of Infant Mortality in conjunction with the National Baby Week Council and other kindred National Societies.

During National Baby Week a poster parade took place through the main streets of London, and a number of leading London firms co-operated by displaying posters and by distributing Baby Week literature. On Thursday, 1st July, Dr. C. W. Saleeby broadcast from 2LO to all stations an address entitled "The Cradle and the World." Baby Sunday, 4th July, was marked by a much greater co-operation on the part of the clergy of all denominations, and the maternity and child welfare idea and ideal were included in a large number of discourses on Baby Sunday as well as on the Jewish Sabbath in Baby Week. The Press supported the Council extremely well this year, and there was a greater demand than usual for articles and paragraphs in connection with National Baby Week.

National Baby Week was specially marked by the announcement of a competition for Infant Welfare Centres in connection with which the "Daily News" has offered certain money awards for the greatest all-round efficiency during the year. The National Baby Week Council is to adjudicate for the "Daily News."

During the year the work and influence of the Council developed still further on imperial lines. Through the co-operation and generosity of the "News of the World," a handsome silver challenge shield was offered for award annually to the Committee holding the best Baby Week throughout the Empire (exclusive of the British Isles). The regulations governing this competition are very much the same as those for the Astor Challenge Shield, which is exclusively for the British Isles. A Baby Week Campaign (which must be announced as such and which may or may not, according to the discretion of the competing Committee, be combined with a Health Week) must be held between 1st June, 1926, and such time as will enable the records to be transmitted to, and received by, the National Baby Week Council office on or before 1st June, 1927. As a result of this competition we hear that many Baby Weeks are being organised in various parts of the Empire, and from the many communications received from Medical Officers of Health, and others interested in the maternity and child welfare movement overseas, there is proof that the Baby Week movement is steadily establishing itself throughout the Empire.

The Astor Challenge Shield, which is awarded annually for the most effective local Baby Week campaign, was for 1926 again won by the Northampton Local Baby Week Committee. The entries have now reached a very high standard, and the Adjudicating Committee found considerable difficulty in giving full consideration to the claims of the campaigns entered by the smaller and rural areas, as against those entered by the larger areas, and was greatly relieved and helped by the generous gift of William Hardy, Esq.,

Vice-President of the Council, of a second shield reserved for award to the smaller areas. This for 1926 was won by the Halesowen Local Baby Week Committee. An Astor Banner was awarded to the Leicester Health and Baby Week Committee and Certificates of Merit to :—the County Borough of Kingston-upon-Hull, Wolverhampton County Borough, Swinton and Pendlebury U.D.C., Cornwall County Health and Baby Week Committee, Havant and Bedhampton Infant Welfare Centre, East and West Molesley Infant Welfare Centre and the Bungay (Suffolk) Local Baby Week Committee.

During the year the Marchioness of Reading accepted a Vice-Presidency of the Council, an honour which is highly appreciated. Lady Reading, when Vicereine of India, was the founder of National Baby Week in India.

The development of films as a method of propaganda was shown by the fact that during the year the demand for the Council's films was practically treble that of the previous year. Propaganda plays, too, seemed to be particularly popular, and a greater use was made of them. The requests for the Council's leaflets and pamphlets also showed a considerable increase.

THE NATIONAL COUNCIL FOR THE UNMARRIED MOTHER AND HER CHILD.

Office : Carnegie House, 117, Piccadilly, W.1.

Chairman : MRS. H. A. L. FISHER.

Hon. Treasurer : LADY MUSPRATT, J.P., C.C.

Hon. Secretary : MRS. ARTHUR WHITTING.

General Secretary : MISS SUSAN MUSSON.

Telephone : Grosvenor 1482.

The Council's primary object being to obtain improvements in the laws relating to the illegitimate child, it is with much satisfaction that it has now seen a number of reforms in this direction placed upon the Statute Book. The Council's first Bastardy Bill, introduced by Mr. Neville Chamberlain in 1920, was cut down in Committee to five main points. Of these, four have now become law—(1) An increase in the maximum amount payable under an affiliation order; (2) power for another justice in the same area to issue a summons in case of the death or disability of a magistrate who has issued a previous summons; (3) the transfer of an order from a Board of Guardians to the mother on discharge of the child from the Poor Law Institution; and (4) legitimation by the subse-

quent marriage of the parents. In addition to these points of the Council's original Bill, the law of England and Wales now acknowledges the right of an illegitimate child, and the mother of an illegitimate child, to succeed on intestacy of the other (a clause first introduced by Lord Buckmaster on the request of the Council); an illegitimate child which has been born to one of a married couple before marriage and absorbed into the family, may now benefit with other children, under the Widows', Orphans' and Old Age Pensions Act; and the consent of the mother to the marriage of an illegitimate child must be obtained if it is a minor. The Adoption of Children Act, which came into force on 1st January, will bring benefit to many illegitimate children who have been adopted, or are adopted in the future. Whilst not in favour of adoption as a general rule for illegitimate children, the Council has always agreed that there are certain cases where such an arrangement is advisable, and has taken much interest in the introduction of such legislation. Viscount Astor has now reintroduced the Bastardy Bill which was sponsored by Captain Bowyer in 1925; this Bill deals with four main principles—hearing of affiliation cases before birth; payment by the father towards the expenses of the mother during the later months of pregnancy; an order to be allowed against the father for the expenses of confinement and pregnancy, even though the child is stillborn; and an affiliation case to be heard without the evidence of the mother, if she is dead or insane.

It is practically impossible to show concrete results from the propaganda of a social organisation, but general evidence goes to prove that the work of the Council is bearing fruit. Interesting Conferences were held during the year, at which the following subjects were discussed:—"Infant Mortality of Illegitimate Children, and some methods of co-operation by which it might be further reduced." Speakers: Miss Elizabeth Pearson, Miss Helen Newill, the Hon. Mrs. Eustace Hills, and Miss J. Halford. The question of "Co-operation between District Nursing Associations and Rescue Organisations in dealing with Unmarried Mothers" was later dealt with, the principal speaker being Miss A. M. Peterkin.

The Council's Session at the Child Welfare Conference held during Baby Week in London, had for its subject "The Churches and the Child"; the Archbishop of Canterbury consented to be President of the Session, the Chairman was Mrs. H. A. L. Fisher, and the speakers were Dr. Herbert Gray, the Chief Rabbi, Commissioner Adelaide Cox, Mrs. Leigh-Smith and Mr. J. H. Lidiard.

A new link with international work has been forged by the appointment of the General Secretary to be the British Representative on the International Woman Suffrage Alliance's Committee for the Unmarried Mother and her Child.

The Case Committee continues its regular weekly meetings, and has to report that the number of new cases registered during 1926 numbered about 900. In spite of failures and disappointments, the Committee feels that each year a larger number of cases are satisfactorily dealt with, owing to the fact that the possibilities are better understood. The Committee most sincerely appreciates the ever-increasing co-operation between the Council and other organisations and bodies in dealing with individual cases. Monetary help from the trustees of the late Mr. Hector Sassoon has been of the greatest possible assistance to the Case Committee in carrying out its work.

NATIONAL HEALTH SOCIETY.

Founded 1872.

Incorporated 1884.

President : H.R.H. THE PRINCESS LOUISE DUCHESS OF ARGYLL.

President of the Council : HIS GRACE THE DUKE OF DEVONSHIRE.

Chairman : SIR JAMES CRICHTON BROWNE, M.D., F.R.C.S.

Vice-Chairman : PROFESSOR KENWOOD, C.M.G., M.B., D.P.H. "

Treasurer : SIR ADRIAN POLLOCK (Chamberlain of the City of London).

Secretary : MISS C. DICKENS.

Office : 90, Buckingham Palace Road, S.W.1.

Telephone : Sloane 3613.

The Society's Training for Health Visitors (under the regulations of the Ministry of Health) has been continued throughout the year. Examinations for Health Visitors were held by the Central Examination Board in April and July, 1926 and January, 1927, and 14 of our students were successful in satisfying the examiners. The number of students presenting themselves for training has dropped considerably since the introduction of the new Regulations, but there are signs of a slight improvement again at the present time. The Society's Loan Fund for students has been called upon for help in several cases during the year and it is very pleasing to note the conscientious way in which the loans are repaid and the expressions of gratitude and appreciation received from the students.

Other work has been carried on as usual.

NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR THE BLIND.
(Blind Babies Dept.)

Sunshine Homes for Blind Babies.

President : H.R.H. PRINCESS BEATRICE.

Conducted by the National Institute for the Blind,
 224, Great Portland Street, W.1.

(Registered under the Blind Persons Act, 1920.)

Patrons :

H.M. THE KING.

H.M. THE QUEEN.

Chairman : CAPTAIN SIR BEACHROFT TOWSE, V.C., K.C.V.O., C.B.E.

Vice-Chairman : SIR MICHAEL O'DWYER, G.C.I.E., K.C.S.I.

Hon. Treasurers : G. F. MOWATT, J.P.

A. J. W. KITCHEN, C.I.E.

Secretary-General : SIR ALEXANDER DIACK, K.C.I.E., C.V.O., C.B.E.

The National Institute for the Blind became affiliated to the Central Council for Infant and Child Welfare in 1923, one of the Institute's chief activities being the establishment and maintenance of Homes for Blind Babies.

At Chorley Wood, Herts, at Southport, Lanes., and at Leamington Spa, Warwickshire, sunshine has a permanent home in three houses distinctively and delightfully called the Sunshine Homes.

Many people, perhaps, would consider the title a misnomer. But, if they did so, it would be convincing proof that they had never passed through the "Sunshine" gates and that their knowledge of the tiny inhabitants of the Homes was based on a conventional pity rather than a sympathetic understanding. For every visitor to any one of the Homes must come away with the feeling of discovery, well described by Mr. E. Temple Thurston: "I have made a discovery: I have discovered where the sunshine goes when the skies are wrapped in grey and the rain falls and the wind rattles the window-panes." And, although the eyes must be full of tears, the hearts of all who come away from the Homes will be full of the tenderness, the loving kindness, that true sunshine begets.

Before the establishment of the first Sunshine Homes babies born blind were left, like lonely little children in the desolation of wild weather, to find themselves a route through the dark world which enveloped their baby souls. For, even when poverty and neglect did not add to the perils of the way, there were hidden dangers in the sobs of a mother's love, unknown barriers in the misunderstanding of blindness which breeds a tear and not a smile. It was not until the National Institute for the Blind called for every blind baby in England to come into its Sunshine Homes that the little hands found a guide through their land of darkness, but

then they found not merely a guide but a wonderful all-pervading influence. Pallid cheeks have blossomed into roses, stunted minds have swept away the cobwebs that intercepted and prevented growth, striving little hearts have flowered, sightless eyes have been forgotten in the delight of a soul that sees; and in some cases, owing to constant medical attention, the word "blind" has been banished for evermore.

Begun as an experiment, the Sunshine Homes are day by day adding to the justification of their existence. The training they provide forms the only key to the problem of blindness from birth. They take a blind baby before the misery of blindness has captured it, and, in the first years of its life, they mould the mind of the blind child to fit the conditions of blindness. At the Sunshine Homes, from Matron to maids, these babies meet nothing but love for their famished little minds. They learn to learn and they learn to love, and mind and heart walk hand in hand up golden stairs to the stars. The Sunshine babies are intensely lovable, intensely interesting. When you see them smiling at the sweet smell of flowers, delighted with the grunt of a pig, overjoyed with paddling and sand castles by the sea; when you see them chuckling in their tubs, clapping their hands for another helping of pudding, lisping the Lord's Prayer beside their little cots, dreaming with flushed cheeks and happy smiles of moonshine fairies in the lovely lands of sleep—then you will thank God that ways and means have been found to sow the seed of happiness in minds darkened by destiny's hardest decree.

It is impossible here to give even a brief description of life at the Sunshine Homes, but some idea of the fulness and happiness of that life may be gathered from the following extracts from reports recently received:—

"The favourite subject in the Kindergarten is handwork. The babies call it 'our work,' and it consists of (1) threading all kinds of beads and empty reels; (2) building towers and making stairs and steps with bricks of varying size; (3) doing the Montessori insets, cylindrical and geometrical; (4) fastening and unfastening buttons, press-studs, hooks, lacing, &c.; (5) sorting boxes containing various kinds of materials; (6) weaving; (7) knitting; and (8) dressing dolls and making their beds.

"Sometimes a tea-party follows. If the dolls are to go to a party they must be dressed, every garment put on in its right order, and *all* the buttons fastened. Then some little ones must adorn themselves, and hence thread bead necklaces, while the 'Marthas' lay the table and draw up the chairs.

"The Babies love stories, and it is remarkable how well they remember even very long stories. After hearing a story, they are always anxious to play it, and display much originality in so doing.

“ Every day, in the warm months, we try to discover something fresh that the garden has for us. Noel wanted to catch Mr. Wind and hold him. Alas, he could not do that; but we felt him blow on our faces and make our hair very untidy. On the sandhills we hear the song of the lark every day. Poetry, songs and hymns all help us to remember what we have seen in the garden, and joyfully we sing ‘ Yellow daffodilly in a green gown,’ ‘ Up, up, up, said the lark to the wide, wide, wide, blue sky,’ and ‘ Spring is coming, Birdie build your nest.’ What fun to have a real nest with eggs in it to handle, and then for baby to make one for himself with plasticene!

“ During the morning, we have Bible stories and hymns, followed by occupations and handwork, using much of the Montessori sense-training apparatus. Then come games, music and free play. Music afternoons are delightful, and a splendid programme is arranged—singing, marching, dancing, musical drill, percussion band and musical games.

“ The babies have plenty of common-sense. One afternoon I heard the following dialogue:—

NOEL : If I ate lots and lots of bread and butter and bread and jam and cake and drank lots and lots of cocoa, should I grow to be a big boy?

WILLIAM : No, you’d be sick.

“ Most of the babies find their way about the Home remarkably well. A small boy on one occasion found no difficulty in escorting a party of visitors to the ‘ office ’ where the sweets are kept! A little girl also walked another group of visitors upstairs to the nurseries, and volubly explained the mystery of ‘ letting down the side of a cot.’

“ One finds the most backward children the most fascinating, for they call for so much thought. Previous experience has shown that those who might seem to be almost beyond redemption will, after months of constant and never-failing attention, begin to respond, just as the buds open to the sun in the springtime. There are few, if any, blind children who cannot be brought to the normal standard.”

Guarded by unfailing love, guided by expert care, the Sunshine baby is thus compensated in some degree for the tragic circumstance of birth. In the Sunshine Homes—

Nothing threatens, no terror peers;
 In his lit darkness is no mirk,
 No danger threatens, no foes lurk.
 The stars sing to him from their spheres,
 The distant fluting of heaven he hears.
 There is a secret ’twixt him and God.
 They lean together under the rose;
 Strange and beautiful the child grows;
 Like the closed bud on the lily’s rod,
 The soft still beauty praiseth God.

All those interested in child welfare should bear in mind the existence of these Homes. By making the Homes more publicly known, they are helping blind children all over the country.

Parents and guardians of blind babies and medical officers should write immediately to the Secretary-General, National Institute for the Blind, 224, Great Portland Street, W.1, giving full particulars of the case.

THE NATIONAL LEAGUE FOR HEALTH, MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE.

(Incorporated 1905.)

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

Chairman : DR. G. F. STILL.

Hon. Secretaries : DR. ERIC PRITCHARD and MISS J. HALFORD.

Hon. Treasurer : MR. ALFRED HOARE.

Hon. Solicitor : MR. J. E. WALKER, 7, Quality Court, Chancery Lane, W.C.2.

Hon. Auditor : MESSRS. CASSLETON ELLIOTT & Co., 4-6, Throgmorton Avenue, E.C.2.

Representing the National League for Physical Education and Improvement.

DR. R. A. LYSTER.

MR. F. J. MATHESON.

MISS J. HALFORD.

MR. J. E. WALKER.

MISS GARDNER.

Representing the National Association for the Prevention of Infant Mortality.

LADY MURPHY.

DR. LINA POTTER.

DR. HAROLD SCURFIELD.

DR. G. F. STILL.

Representing the Association of Infant Welfare and Maternity Centres.

MR. C. PEYTON BALLY.

MISS E. BUNTING.

MISS NORAH MARCH.

DR. ERIC PRITCHARD.

DR. FLORA SHEPHERD.

Representing the National Baby Week Council.

DR. SEEKINGS FRIEL.

PROFESSOR BOSTOCK HILL.

DR. MABEL BRODIE.

MAJOR LOVELOCK.

MR. E. B. TURNER.

Representing the National Society of Day Nurseries.

MRS. IRESON.

MRS. WEINBERG.

MRS. THEODORE RALLI.

Representing the Women's Health Association of Ireland.

THE MARCHIONESS OF ABERDEEN
AND TEMAIR.

DR. PRUDENCE GAFFIKIN.

Representing the National Council for the Unmarried Mother and Her Child.

MRS. ATHERTON EARP.

MISS MUSSON.

MRS. PHILLIPS.

Offices : Carnegie House, 117, Piccadilly, W.1.

Telephone : Grosvenor 1140.

Year by year the National League for Health, Maternity and Child Welfare is able to report a steady increase in work undertaken and accomplished, and at no time has its reputation for reliable and valuable work stood higher than it does now, at the end of 22 years' service in the best interests of the public.

The experience and knowledge gained during the many years of the League's activities are freely placed at the disposal of all callers and correspondents, who number now nearly 50,000 per annum and are drawn from all quarters of the globe.

Some Statistics.

During 1926 the League issued no fewer than 429,414 copies of its publications, and so constantly increasing is the demand that high hopes are entertained that the half million mark will be reached during 1927. The most popular pamphlet issued is "To Mothers and Fathers," previously called "To Wives and Mothers," and of this 77,000 copies were disposed of during the year. "Mothercraft," which was originally published in 1914 and which now appears in its fifth edition, after being again revised and enlarged, still holds its high place as the recognised text-book for all grades of health workers, and 1,200 copies at 4s. 6d. each were sold in 1926.

Permission was given to the Egyptian Public Health Department to issue an edition in Arabic of the League's charts for recording the weight of children from birth to the end of their fifth year.

Almost 200,000 case-papers, weight charts, weight cards and similar publications for the use of Infant Welfare Centres also found purchasers, together with over 5,000 of the I.W.C. feeding bottles and teats, invented by the Association of Infant Welfare and Maternity Centres.

Popular Health Lectures.

The demand for popular lectures on the health of women and girls, which the League is able to supply free of charge, continues very steadily and is extending to all parts of the country. During 1926, eighteen lectures were given to Girls' Clubs, Girls' Friendly Societies, Girl Guide Companies, branches of the Mothers' Union, British Legion and Women's Guilds in London, and 28 lectures to similar organisations in the provinces.

Physical Training Film.

Throughout the year the film prepared by the League on this subject has been shown to a large variety of audiences. It proved

most popular in connection with Health Week celebrations, and formed the chief attraction at the League's session of the Annual Conference of Educational Associations. It has been shown four times in London and twenty-three times in the provinces, sometimes to an audience of 1,000 people.

As evidence of the growing interest taken in the subject of Physical Training for Elementary Schools, the film has already several bookings arranged for 1927.

This film is available to any local education authority or individual school, free of charge, on condition that carriage is paid both ways.

Conference of Educational Associations.

Each year the League undertakes a session at the Annual Conference of Educational Associations, thus taking advantage of the opportunity to bring the objects for which the League stands to the notice of the teaching profession. An excellent audience was secured at the 1926 Conference for a discussion on "How to carry on Simplified Physical Education and Organised Games in Elementary Schools," supplemented by the League's film. Dame Janet Campbell, Senior Medical Officer of the Ministry of Health, presided, and several representatives of the Board of Education, Physical Training Department, were also present.

Individual Case Work.

Many types of cases are dealt with under this heading, and during the past year the number of cases was just under 500, showing an increase of 40 over the previous year. Most of the applications for help and advice were from parents needing temporary or permanent homes for very young children or convalescence for mothers and babies, a home for confinement or a home school. Inadequate housing accommodation is often the reason for wishing to find temporary homes for children, and, while the League cannot improve the housing conditions, it tries in all cases to advise and help the parents so that if possible they will not have to be separated from their children. This branch of the League also forms a useful liaison with other societies and institutions.

Tired Mothers' Holiday Fund.

This fund, which owed its inception and a large part of its resources to the late Sir Arthur Acland, is used for providing a much-needed holiday (not convalescence) for tired working-class mothers. The cases are referred to the League by local Infant

Welfare Centres. In each instance the mother contributed something, however small, to the expenses of the holiday, as the Fund's grant never exceeded £3, the average being £2 2s. 4d.

The applications during 1926 were fewer than in the previous year, one cause being that the local centres are now following the example set by the League and undertaking themselves to arrange holidays for deserving cases.

The Employment Bureau.

There was an increasing demand during the year for the help so usefully rendered by the Infant Welfare Workers' Employment Bureau. Out of 748 vacancies reported to the Bureau, no fewer than 275 were filled by its agency. To effect this result, 1,485 interviews with employers and employees were required. The demand for the services of skilled women, experienced in the care and upbringing of young children, is greatly in excess of the supply, and the Bureau cannot in consequence fill as many of the vacancies as it would like to do. Applications from employers are received not only from Great Britain, but from abroad, including France, Italy, Roumania and the Dominions generally.

The League's Convalescent Homes for Babies and Toddlers.

The League is now responsible for the administration and finance of three country Convalescent Homes for babies and children under five years of age.

The Arkley Toddlers' Home, near High Barnet, has twelve cots for babies between the ages of 2 and 5 years, and the Marjorie Lumley Home at Maidenhead can accommodate eight children of the same age. Children under two are received at the John Madocks Home, Basing, where 12 cots are available.

These Homes are always full and have a waiting list during most months of the year.

The League, through its Babies' Homes Department, also takes an active part in the administration of the Creagh Nursery Training School and Babies' Home, accommodating 16 students and 22 babies, and of the Babies' Hostel and Nursery Training School, at 83, King's Avenue, Clapham Park, which was founded by the League in 1918 and financed by it during the first few difficult years of its existence. This Home accommodates 30 babies and 18 students.

THE NATIONAL SOCIETY OF DAY NURSERIES.

Founded 1905.

President : H.H. PRINCESS MARIE LOUISE.

Chairman of the Executive Committee : THE LADY ISLINGTON.

Hon. Treasurer : ALEXANDER HOWARD, ESQ.

Chairman of Council : THE HON. MRS. EUSTACE HILLS.

Secretary : MISS E. MADDOCK.

Founder : MRS. A. PERCIVAL.

Office : 117, Piccadilly, W.1.

Telephone : Grosvenor 1283.

The work connected with our branch of Infant and Child Welfare has been carried on very smoothly during the past year.

There is an increasing demand for Day Nursery accommodation in many places where women are employed in industrial or domestic work.

The Society has, to some extent, broadened its activities, especially in connection with the training of Probationers in Day Nurseries.

Our Holiday Home at Tunbridge Wells has undergone considerable structural improvements and an increasing number of children have benefited by their stay there.

The Babies' Hotel was moved from Epping Forest to a far better house in a more suitable neighbourhood in March; the new premises, Buxted Lodge, King's Avenue, Clapham Park, were opened by H.R.H. Princess Arthur of Connaught in July. Lady Lawrence, Chairman of the Committee, received the guests, among whom were the Bishop of Kingston, the Mayor of Wandsworth and many other friends. This special work for resident babies belonging to the professional class supplies a crying need in these days, when housing difficulties, illness and other reasons make it impossible at times for the children to remain with their parents.

The Society arranged an interesting Session during the Baby Week Conference in July, when matters relating to nursery Toddlers were the subject of discussion.

The South Islington Nursery, in its charming old buildings with every desirable modern convenience, was re-opened in November by H.R.H. Princess Louise Duchess of Argyll, supported by Lord and Lady Islington and during November Lady Islington opened the roof garden on Kingsway Hall for the Nursery.

The building of the Sun Babies' Nursery, Hoxton, in memory of Lady Helmsley, has proceeded rapidly and the Nursery was in use by the end of February.

On the death of Mrs. Hamilton-Fellows her Nursery (St. Margaret's, Battersea Park) was handed over to the Society; this bequest was gladly welcomed and the Society hope to assist the St. Margaret's Committee in carrying on the work in accordance with the wishes of its founder; a handsome subsidy to be paid by the estate of Mrs. Hamilton-Fellows has made it possible for the Society to undertake this fresh responsibility.

The Council and Executive Committee had much pleasure in welcoming Dr. Barrie Lambert, Hon. Director of the Central Council for Infant and Child Welfare, as Vice-President of the Society.

THE STATE CHILDREN'S ASSOCIATION.

(With which is incorporated the Boarding-out Association.)

Chairmen :

The late Right Hon. VISCOUNT PEEL, 1896-7.
 The late Right Hon. LORD HERSCHELL, 1897-9.
 The late Right Hon. EARL GREY, 1899-1900.
 The Most Hon. The MARQUESS OF CREWE, 1901-5.
 The late Right Hon. LORD BURGHCLERE, 1906-7.
 The Right Hon. The EARL OF LYTTON, 1908-22.
 The Right Hon. VISCOUNT CHELMSFORD, 1922-3.
 The Right Hon. LORD STANMORE, 1924.

Hon. Vice-Chairmen : LORD HENRY CAVENDISH-BENTINCK, M.P.
 MR. K. G. RUSSELL VAISEY.

Hon. Treasurers : MR. BERESFORD V. MELVILLE.
 The Right Hon. SIR ALBERT SPICER, BART.

Hon Secretaries : DAME HENRIETTA BARNETT, D.B.E.
 MR. J. A. LOVAT-FRASER.

Bankers : The National Provincial Bank, Ltd.,
 St. James's Street Branch.

Office : 117, Piccadilly, W.1. *Telephone :* Grosvenor 2734.

The State Children's Association exists to promote the welfare of two classes of children; those who depend upon the Poor Law for their support and those who break the criminal law. It aims at securing for those two classes a life that will be useful and happy and that will make them good citizens and assets, not liabilities, to the community.

The Association continuously resists the policy of retaining Poor Law children in the workhouses and immuring them in barrack institutions. It maintains that when children are crowded,

sometimes to the number of 600, in one big institution, individual care and attention are impossible, and the children grow up without the real knowledge of life that is necessary to prepare them for the difficulties and pitfalls of the world. It advocates boarding-out and small scattered homes as approximating most nearly to the natural home and the parental care of which the child has been deprived.

In the case of the child who offends against the law it is opposed to all harsh measures and vindictive punishments. It advocates probation and those auxiliaries to probation which have proved so successful wherever they have been put into force by competent hands.

In spite of progress in the treatment of both classes of children in recent years there is still much to be done. The last Annual Report of the Ministry of Health complained of the number of Boards of Guardians who still retain their children within the walls of the workhouse. There are still benches of magistrates that flog children whose real need is a kind word and a helping hand.

The Association has been much concerned about the proposals of the Ministry of Health for the reform of the Poor Law. It is most anxious that in any such reforms nothing that has been gained by the efforts of past years shall be lost. The Ministry proposes to abolish the Guardians and to hand over the work of relieving the poor to the County Councils and County Borough Councils. There is always a danger that large bodies favour large barrack institutions and this is a danger to be vigilantly guarded against in the case of the children.

Another danger is the loss of the services of many of the women Guardians, who have especially interested themselves in the children. There are about 2,330 women on Boards of Guardians, while there are only about 280 women elected to County Councils and County Borough Councils. It would be disastrous if the work of the women on Boards of Guardians were lost or even reduced as the result of the reform proposals. Mr. Lovat-Fraser, the joint honorary secretary, when accompanying a deputation of the National Council of Women to the Minister of Health recently, urged upon him the need of requiring the new Poor Law authorities to co-opt a compulsory minimum of women on the committees that have to do with the children.

The work of securing " friends " for the children in industrial schools has been assiduously carried on during the year by Miss Cameron, the assistant secretary. Excellent articles on this branch of the Association's work appeared in " The Quiver " and " Home

Notes," and helped to secure additional "friends." Grateful testimony to the good results of this work has been abundantly forthcoming.

The Association has been vigorous in advocating probation. Efforts have been made to induce the Universities in industrial centres to follow the example of the American Universities by assisting in the work of probation and running clinics. Much of what the Association has been advocating for years has been recommended in the Report of the Home Office Committee on the Treatment of Young Offenders, which has recently been issued. If the recommendations of the Committee are followed by legislation a great advance will be made.

The work of spreading the principles of the Association has been steadily maintained. Testimonies to the influence of this work come from many parts at home and abroad. During the year an article on the Association and its efforts appeared in French and Flemish in a Belgian paper published in Mechlin. A pamphlet on its work was recently published in German. Applications for information and assistance come from bodies so wide apart as the Child Aid Association of Michigan, U.S.A., and the Education Department of Bengal.

The Annual Meeting of the Association was held on 14th October at 52, Portland Place, the house of Lady St. Helier, when Lord Stanmore occupied the chair and speeches were delivered by Dame Henrietta Barnett, Mr. Hancock Nunn, Mrs. Helena Normanton, Barrister-at-Law, and Mr. Lovat-Fraser.

CENTRAL COUNCIL FOR INFANT AND CHILD WELFARE (INCORPORATED).

Dr.				Cr.			
BALANCE SHEET, 31ST MARCH, 1927.				BALANCE SHEET, 31ST MARCH, 1927.			
	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
TO SUNDRY CREDITORS AND CREDIT BALANCES...	93	1	3	BY CASH AT BANKERS AND IN HAND—			
BALANCE OF UNEXPENDED EARMARKED GRANTS—				Deposit Account ..	574	18	0
Institute of Infant Welfare Fund ...	71	18	1	Current Account ..	193	15	10
London Federation ...	20	0	0	In Hand ...	15	13	5
	91	18	1		784	7	3
ACCUMULATED FUND—				INVESTMENTS—			
As at 31st March, 1926 ...	£7,048	8	0	£4,622 4s. 11d. 5 per cent. National War Bonds, 1929 (at cost) ...			
Less: Adjustment in respect of Grant received in 1926	33	19	3		4,889	7	6
	7,014	8	9	JOINT COUNCIL, ORDER OF ST. JOHN AND BRITISH RED CROSS SOCIETY—			
Less: Excess of Expenditure over Income for the year ended 31st March, 1927, as per annexed account ...	778	18	8	Unpaid balance of Approved Grant ...			
	6,235	10	1		312	10	0
				SUNDRY DEBTORS AND DEBIT BALANCES ...			
					291	5	5
				FURNITURE AND FITTINGS, less DEPRECIATION ...			
					142	19	3
					£6,420	9	5
PHYLLIS SYDENHAM, Hon. Treasurer.	£6,420	9	5				
F. BARRIE LAMBERT, Hon. Director.							

TO THE MEMBERS OF THE CENTRAL COUNCIL FOR INFANT AND CHILD WELFARE (INCORPORATED).

We have audited the above Balance Sheet, dated 31st March, 1927, with the Books and Vouchers of the Company, and have received all the information and explanations we have required. In our opinion, such Balance Sheet is properly drawn up so as to show the true and correct position of the Company's affairs according to the best of our information and the explanations given to us, and as shown by the books of the Company.

Alderman's House,
 Bishopsgate, London, E.C.2.
 24th May, 1927.

BLACKBURNS, BARTON, MAYHEW & CO.,
*Chartered Accountants,
 Auditors.*

THE FOLLOWING GRANTS HAVE BEEN MADE SINCE 1919.

	1919-20	1920-21	1921-22	1922-23	1923-24	1924-25	TOTAL
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
National Health Society ...	—	—	125	50	25	—	200
Incorporated Midwives' Institute	500	—	—	—	50	—	550
Invalid Children's Aid Association ...	700	—	700	200	250	100	1,950
I. C. A. A. (London Central Spectacles Association) ...	—	—	400	200	—	—	600
National League for Health, Maternity and Child Welfare	200	—	500	200	250	100	1,250
National Society of Day Nurseries ...	100	250	—	100	100	50	600
London Federation of Infant Welfare Centres ..	—	—	100	100	—	—	200
National Baby Week Council...	500	500	50	100	200	—	1,350
Children's Jewel Fund ...	500	—	—	—	—	—	500
Mothercraft Training Society...	500	500	—	—	100	—	1,100
National Council for the Unmarried Mother and her Child ...	250	750	125	100	150	75	1,450
Central Committee for the Care of Cripples ...	500	—	250	100	—	75	925
Child Welfare Travelling Exhibition ...	150	275	28	—	—	—	453
State Children's Association ...	—	—	—	—	50	50	100
Balham Day Nursery ...	—	100	—	—	—	—	100
Council of Evangelical Free Churches' Maternity and Training Home, Mere, Wilts. ...	—	50	—	—	—	—	50
Princess Christian's Day Nursery, Windsor ..	100	—	—	—	—	—	100
Princess Marie Louise Babies' Club, Bermondsey ...	200	—	—	—	—	—	200
Queen Mary's Maternity Home, Hampstead ...	100	—	—	—	—	—	100
Salvation Army ...	—	100	500	—	—	—	600
Southwark Diocesan Rescue Association ...	—	25	—	—	—	—	25
West Islington Infant Welfare Centre ...	150	—	—	—	—	—	150
Total	£4,450	£2,550	£2,778	£1,150	£1,175	£450	£12,553

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